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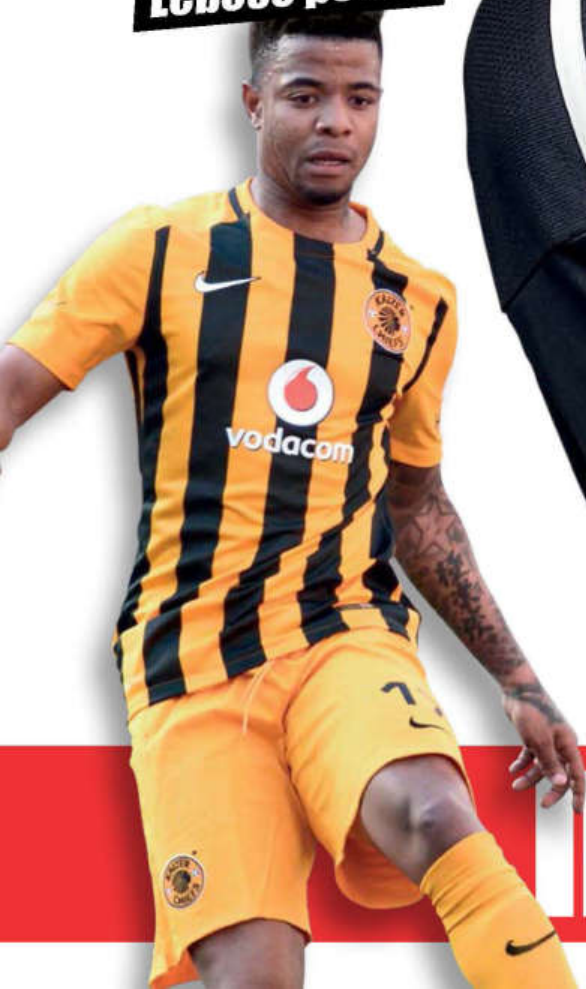
RAKHALE

"I'm no showboater..."

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ignore **PLUS** George
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Why
Vila stayed
at Wits



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YEARBOOK ON SALE OCTOBER 12

Many readers have been asking us when our KICK OFF Yearbook will be on the newsstands – and we're glad to be able to tell you that the wait is nearly over!

Yes, the Yearbook goes on sale on October 12 – and this year we've increased the number of copies printed to meet the demand.

Once again, we've compiled, number-crunched and back-checked to provide a wealth of information.

As always, the Yearbook features comprehensive information of every Absa Premiership club and their playing squads, biographies on all Premiership coaches and detailed NFD statistics. There is a comprehensive record of overseas-based players; a list of every senior international player as well as Bafana Bafana's recent match information.

We also take you down memory lane with statistics and league tables of past seasons.

Compiled by the KICK OFF editorial team with input from the gurus at Mzansi Football – Mark Gleeson and Nick Said – this is an edition you cannot afford to miss out on.

Now in its 20th year, the KICK OFF Yearbook remains a must for every serious football fan; it truly is South Africa's soccer bible.

Richard Maguire
Editor



Lest we forget

THIS month, October, marks a year since the murder of Bafana Bafana and Orlando Pirates goalkeeper Senzo Meyiwa.

We note with dismay the appalling lack of progress in the murder investigation by the SAPS. That they cannot bring to justice the killers of a popular public figure serves as a chilling reminder of how unprotected we all feel as South Africans.

This time of the year is particularly sad for me, as I also remember my late friend Tommy Madigage, who passed away in October 2012.

I also take this moment to recall two great young players, who still had so much to offer when they were taken from us: Lesley Manyathela, who died in August 2003, and Gift Leremi, who passed in September 2007.

COMPETITION AND GIVEAWAY RULES 1. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 2. The prizes are not transferable and may not be converted to cash. 3. Multiple entries will not be considered. 4. If possible, please supply a residential rather than a PO Box address, as entries sent by registered post will not be collected. 5. Staff members of Media24 (Ltd.), as well as their advertising agencies and immediate family members may not enter. 6. Winners indemnify and hold KICK OFF and Media24 (Ltd.) harmless against any liability, claim, damage or loss resulting from participation and winning of prizes. 7. By entering you agree to receive further communications and direct marketing materials from Media24 (Ltd.). 8. Letter of the month is chosen at the editor's discretion and the winner will be notified telephonically or via email.



PICTURE CHRIS BICO BACK (GEXX)

Still got it – 46-year-old Thabo Mngomeni proves that class is permanent, as he shows his trademark tricks during a recent photoshoot for KICK OFF. Read more on page 45.



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Never trust anybody in the soccer business

A full-page photograph of soccer player Thabo Rakhale in mid-air, heading a green and white soccer ball. He is wearing a black jersey with white Adidas stripes on the sleeves, a red collar, and a Vodacom logo. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in yellow and blue. The title 'WALKING STRAIGHT TO THE TOP' is overlaid in large white letters on a black background.

WALKING STRAIGHT TO THE TOP



Rakhale on a possible Bafana Bafana call-up

"If it's meant to be that I must be in Bafana Bafana eventually, it will happen. But if it's not meant to be then it's not and I won't be disappointed because we have so many great players in this country. Everything will depend on how I work – I don't want to set a deadline date."

Thabo Rakhale has exploded onto the scene as the most exciting ball-player we have seen in recent years. In his most in-depth interview to date, the 25-year-old ball-wizard reveals himself to be a sensible young man who thinks about his game a lot. "I don't even know how to define the word 'showboating'," Rakhale tells Zola Doda.

KICK OFF: Thabo, thanks for your time. This season things have started well for you; so much so that fans are already talking about you as a possible Footballer of the Season ...

THABO RAKHALE: Footballer of the Season? [Laughing] Thanks for the compliment, but there is a long way to go before the end of the season. But I want to win something with the team when the season ends; that is the most important thing. That is what I desire the most. Yes, my season started well and one of the reasons for that might be the fact that I started this season in the starting line-up, unlike last season when I started from the bench. I guess one of the reasons I started from the bench was because I was competing with players who were playing well and I had to wait for my chance. Towards the end of last season I had more game-time and when this new season started it was a question of picking up from where I left off.

Aside from wanting to win something with the team, have you set yourself any personal targets?

I did set targets, but they are not unrealistic targets; it's just minimal targets. My target is to play more matches because game-time is important. I need to continue playing so that my confidence can go up. Game-time is very important at this point in my career.

How big a part of your form can be attributed to the fans?

The reception I've received from Pirates and all football-loving fans around the country has been overwhelming – I need to use that to help me improve my game. The treatment I get here is not the same treatment I received when I was at Polokwane City. At Polokwane I was playing, but it was not the same. I don't really know, maybe it's because Pirates is a big club and people watch the team all

Derby desire – Rakhale gets to the ball ahead of Tsepo Masilela



In action for
Sivutsa Stars

One-two's

How does it feel to play alongside the likes of Oupa Manyisa, Issa Sarr, Mpho Makola and Thandani Ntshumayelo in midfield?

We are all ball players and we understand each other very well. When Oupa has the ball I know what he is going to do, and when Mpho has the ball we know what he is going to do. We talk a lot amongst ourselves to help us improve.

Name your best disk players?

Jabu Mahlangu, Steve Lekoelea and Ronaldinho. Ronaldinho made football so simple and whenever he had the ball he did something. Steve and Jabu also used their skills in a positive way – they took on defenders and created goals.

What are you going to do when you retire?

I still want to continue studying. I always think about where I can improve my education because I like books.

How do you relax before a match?

I like to listen to music; I like House, R&B and Gospel.

Who sings the most in the dressing room?

Brighton Mhlongo and our kitman Pule [Shedrack Sithabe]. And then we have a few *Pop Idols* hopefuls who are always hitting the wrong notes. I always look at them and just burst into laughter.

Who cracks jokes?

That's Thamsanqa Gabuza. He is only serious once a week and then he starts cracking jokes. Also Thabo Matlaba and Bibo Ntshumayelo – when they are together it's trouble.

Has the chairman Irvin Khoza made any speeches about the CAF Confederation Cup?

He only spoke to us about xenophobic problems when we were going to play away in Gabon. There were a lot of things going on in the country regarding xenophobic violence at that time and some of us were worried.

Pirates fans call you 'Johnnie Walker'. Do you like the nickname?

Oh, the Johnnie Walker thing! [Laughing] It's just a nickname. In football people call you whatever they want to and we must appreciate it because fans love us. Baba Mthethwa calls me 'Izandla emoyeni' [Hands up].





Oh no, not him again! – Masilela tries to get closer to Rakhale

D-day Derby

Soon you will be facing Kaizer Chiefs in the League ...

I'm looking forward to it because I know it's a big game in our country. But I don't want to put too much pressure on myself. It's one of those matches where you have to give your all when given a chance because everyone will be watching. Before the Carling Black Label match a lot of fans were talking about me ... these are games that can make you or break you.

When you go into the Derby, are you planning to do anything special that will make the crowd go "wow"?

No, I will just take the game as it comes. I don't have special game-plans where I need to make special preparations. If you plan too much you will end up making blunders.

the time. Fans are cheering me up here and the way they support me, they make me feel like I've been here for a very long time.

And playing for a big club like Pirates comes with pressure too. Can you still turn on your magic when the pressure increases?

I have to ... what choice do I have? Pressure is something we can't really run away from because this is a pressure club – Orlando Pirates is a big club. Now I just have to keep doing what I'm doing and not let the pressure get into my head.

As much as you've been playing well, your style is polarising opinions. Some people call it showboating and some call it pure skill. Does that bother you in any way?

Honestly *grootman yami*, I don't really know because I don't even know how to define the word showboating properly. The way I understand it – I'm just talking from my perspective – showboating is when a player is standing in one place while doing some tricks that will get the crowd crazy. And if you look at the games I've played for Pirates, I only did that once, against Chippa United last season. So I don't really know why people define my football as showboating. People started debating this showboating-versus-skill matter when I had already played a lot of matches since that one against Chippa United. I honestly don't know why this word is linked with how I play football.

But do you pay attention to the debate?

I do sometimes. Sometimes you can learn something from constructive criticism – there is positive criticism and just criticism for the sake of it. I don't pay attention to everything, but there are some positives to be taken out of it. If someone insults me then I won't listen, but if it's good criticism I will pay attention for sure.

According to you, what is skill compared to showboating?

Skill? Look at Neymar from Barcelona – he uses his skill to create chances by going past players which benefits the team in the process. Now that is skill. Showboating is just dancing around with no purpose of achieving anything. Is it wrong to dance around with the ball even though you are leading 5-0?

It depends. In my opinion whatever helps to make the team win is fine for me. Some clubs lead 5-0 and dance around the ball in order to run down the clock or waste time. Some clubs prefer to

Dribbling wizards

**Johan Cruyff**

Gliding through players with ease, his spindly body swaying this way and that, Johan Cruyff was Europe's greatest player in the 1970s. Kids all over the world, who never saw him play, practice the 'Cruyff turn' that is in every coaching manual. Be it in the Netherlands' orange or the colours of Ajax Amsterdam and Barcelona, the Dutch master was always at his best.

Ronaldinho

Former Brazilian international Roberto Rivelino is credited with inventing the trick of flicking the ball in and out before going past an opponent, but Ronaldinho perfected the move. Always playing with a smile, Ronaldinho made football look easy. In the last 16 of the Uefa Champions League in 2005, the Brazilian was surrounded by three Chelsea defenders on the D-line. Instead of panicking, he danced around the ball before placing it into the back of the net with the outside of his foot, leaving the Chelsea defenders watching like spectators.

Jay-Jay Okocha (above)

Jay-Jay Okocha's mesmerising step-overs and dribbling wizardry have left more people on the deck than most action heroes. In a German League match for Eintracht Frankfurt against Karlsruher SC in 1991, he scored one of the greatest ever goals. After receiving a pass inside the box he turned Oliver Kahn twice, leaving him on the ground as he twisted and turned three Karlsruher defenders before putting the ball into the back of the net. Bafana Bafana also fell victim to his wizardry during a 4-0 2004 Africa Cup of Nations loss to Nigeria.

Pule 'Ace' Ntsolengoe

When Pule Ntsolengoe was on song, Kaizer Chiefs won. 'Ace' was truly a match-winner who took responsibility and carried the team. Playing at a low pace that deceived opponents, 'Mabhekaphansi' was a player of great intelligence that scored goals and created as many. He was placed seventh in the North American Soccer League assist rankings, which proved that he was more than just a dribbler.

Jomo Sono

Whether he was standing on top of the ball, passing with the outside of his foot or scoring with 'banana kicks', Jomo Sono was the personification of *diski*. 'Mjomana' had flair, sublime skill and accurate passes that unlocked the most stubborn defences. Aside from his skills, he was also well known for his other speciality – set-pieces which often ended up in the back of the net.



Converting chances – Rakhale hopes to take more shots and score more goals this season

take the ball to the corner flag and put two giant players between the ball and the flag. They will stand there until the match is finished. But in my opinion it doesn't matter which approach you prefer, as long as you don't lose the ball and end up conceding a goal.

Does the debate encourage youngsters to showcase skills?

If you look at it now, a lot of coaches don't want these types of players so it discourages them. But youngsters look up to players like myself.

What does your coach Eric Tinkler say to you about how you play?

Coach Tinkler only talks to me about my responsibilities, which include going at defenders and creating chances for my teammates. So far I'm happy with my contributions and the way Tinkler contributes to my development is helping. I need to improve on taking

shots and creating more chances – I believe I can score goals too. I get forward a lot and when I reach the final, sometimes I make wrong decisions. That is what is killing me and that needs to improve.

Your goal against Sfaxien in the CAF Confederation Cup was something out of this world though ...

Ah, thanks. It was a special goal. I received the ball and played a counter-attack.

There was a defender in front of me and there was also Majoro and Gabuza who wanted me to pass them the ball. The Sfaxien goalkeeper expected me to play a cross to Majoro or Gabuza, but I took my chance and chipped the ball and it went in. After the match I explained to Gabuza and Majoro that if I had crossed the ball to them the goalkeeper was going to intercept it because he was expecting a cross. We all just laughed. But overall I was happy with that goal and my performance too. The



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way we played as a team in that match ... we did everything in our power to win and at the end of the day we got what we wanted. My mind-set was good and I was motivated by the coach – he is always pushing me.

Pirates are now in the semi-finals.

How far do you think you can go in the tournament?

We are taking each game as it comes. We work and give our best and see how far we can go. If we convert our chances we have a chance of reaching the Final.

What have you learned from playing in CAF competition?

The football is totally different. In Africa it's more tactical and teams are more physical, whereas at home teams want to play football on the ground. It wasn't easy to adapt – for me personally – and I struggled in the match against FC Mounana away in Uganda. I wanted to play my football the way I do in the PSL, but things were difficult and I decided to change the way I play. Senior players also told me things are different and I need to adjust to those conditions. I did and since then I've never looked back.

Pirates are doing well in Africa, but at home you have not made the best of starts. What is the reason for the contrasting results?

I don't know how to answer that question because we give our best in domestic competitions and in CAF, but the results are different. At home we don't have much luck; we give our best and try to take our chances, but the results are not forthcoming. But in Africa it's different because we use every chance we get. Maybe that is because in Africa there is a lot of pressure and we always get psyched up. We played three League matches and lost two and won one. Against SuperSport United we didn't play badly, but we didn't convert and it wasn't our day.



► **Full name:** Thabo Euclite Rakhale ► **Born:** 20/3/90 in Sebokeng ► **Source:** NWU Soccer Institute ► **PSL debut:** Maritzburg City 1 Polokwane City 0 (3/8/13) ► **First goal:** SuperSport United 4 Polokwane City 2 (10/5/14) ► **Previous clubs:** Mighty Mega Force, Sivutsa Stars ► **Honours:** USSA

Career history:

SEASON	CLUB	MATCHES	GOALS
12/13	Sivutsa Stars	24	9
13/14	Polokwane City	14 (+14 subs)	2*
14/15	Orlando Pirates	3 (+20 subs)	2
15/16	Orlando Pirates	8 (+1 sub)	2
TOTALS		49	15

* includes Play-offs.

Correct as at 18/9/15. League, CAF and Cup games only.

Pre-season and friendly matches not included.

You didn't get much of a break during the off-season due to your participation in the CAF Confederation Cup. Is that going to affect you as the season goes progresses?

We do keep that in mind, but the coach is trying to give us much-needed rest whenever he can. I don't really know what will happen to us in mid-season because it's true we didn't get a break. But I believe the coach has a plan.

Who do you see as serious title contenders alongside Orlando Pirates?

I think this season will be different, to be honest with you. Any team can surprise people and be serious title contenders. Look at how Ajax Cape Town started the season – they will be in the mix. The League is up for grabs and there are no favourites this time, unlike the last few seasons.

You are 25, and many people believe that if you started playing senior football earlier you would be playing overseas by

“When I reach the final third of the field, sometimes I make wrong decisions.”

Relive the moment!

Want to see Rakhale's infamous 'Long walk to freedom' again?

Just visit <http://bit.ly/RakhaleWalk>

AND WHILE YOU ARE ON THE WEB, CHECK THESE OUT TOO!

Jay-Jay Okocha

Okocha Skills – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peu7cBp3ero>

Okocha puts Oliver Kahn on his behind – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjkYmTKHq0g>

Ronaldinho

Ronaldinho Skills – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpAbhmGfMQ4>

Jomo Sono

Sono Skills vs European Legends 2006 – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECcmiRqsDLA>

Ace Ntsoelengoe

Ace against Wits and AmaZulu – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4eGvM7z06k>

Johan Cruyff

Cruyff skills and goals – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogAellQp_TA

now. Do you agree with that?

I don't regret that I started playing professionally when I was older. I didn't come through any development system because I grew up 'ekasi' and by the age of 18 and 19, I was studying. So I achieved something ... it's not as if I wasted three years of my life doing nothing.

If you get a chance to play overseas, do you think people will understand the way you play?

I really don't know – it will depend on how the coach uses me. If the coach picks me in the starting line-up, it means he understands me and believes in my ability. If he doesn't then it means he doesn't believe in me. Everything is up to the coach. **KO**

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Bukenya is eyeing a regular spot in Kaizer' Chiefs starting line-up

WAITING GAME



Kaizer Chiefs benchwarmer **Ivan Bukenya** is hoping for more game-time this season.

BY LOVEMORE MOYO

Ivan Bukenya has spent most of his two years at Kaizer Chiefs as a shadow man on the bench, providing cover for the central defenders and holding midfielders.

With Mulomowandau Mathoho and Tefu Mashamaite an impregnable partnership in defence, and Willard Katsande similarly immovable in central

midfield, Bukenya has been severely underemployed.

The Ugandan has had to make do with a bit-part role, sometimes as a late substitute, occasionally starting matches when Chiefs have been hit by injuries and suspensions or playing in cup matches that are not prioritised by the club.

Prior to the MTN8 Cup Final, he had ➤

Worth the hassle?



TOGOLESE forward Camaldine Araw has spent much of the past three months in the headlines – but not for any achievements on the field.

He signed what Bloemfontein Celtic alleged was a pre-contract before deciding to join Kaizer Chiefs. Celtic took the matter to the PSL Dispute Resolution Chamber, but much to Araw's relief the League has allowed Chiefs to register and field him while the investigation is ongoing.

Now, after making his Amakhosi debut as a substitute against SuperSport United, the 25-year-old striker is faced with the responsibility of proving he is worth all the fuss.

The two years he has already spent in the PSL with Free State Stars have produced just seven goals in 33 starts – hardly great numbers, although his supporters claim he brings more value to a team than only goals.

True to that claim, Araw made a bold statement in his 10 minutes on the field against Matsatsantsa.

With the game nearing the end he was still able to engineer an assist for George Lebeso and then win a penalty that was converted by Siphwe Tshabalala; a close-fought 2-1 win had suddenly been turned into a rout, and it was largely down to Araw.

Importantly, Steve Komphela believes in Araw, having been his coach when the Togolese striker arrived at Stars from French lower division club Cherbourg (where he scored four goals in 13 starts).

"We have known him and observed him at training, but that the outcome would be the same we didn't know," says Komphela in reference to Araw's debut. "And that the outcome will forever be like that we hope so," he says in a way that only he could say something.

So what is so special about Araw?

"Intelligent, very composed in the box, calm and even when he walks, he walks with confidence," Komphela says. "Technically he can finish with one touch and is good in the air, good with his feet, can play with a defender on his back, can literally use the space behind the defence ... he is a striker that every coach would like to have."

just 13 starts and 13 substitute appearances to show for his two years at Naturena.

Two of those starts came in the past month, including a fine performance in the 4-1 win over SuperSport United which was spiced by a goal.

"I was happy to have scored in that game, but what mattered most was that it was a team performance and that we came out with three points. I normally score on set-pieces so it wasn't anything new. I can only hope for better things from now," Bukenya says.

"It feels great to be getting a chance because the coach told me right from the beginning of the season that he trusts me and he will use me, so I feel good."

Bukenya knows all too well about the virtue of patience and how to deal with having to be more of a squad player than a regular starter.

"I am a professional footballer so I have to be ready for everything that comes my way.

"I am contracted to the club to perform and whenever I am called upon I



► **Full name:** Ivan Bukenya
 ► **Born:** 1/11/91 in Kampala, Uganda
 ► **Previous clubs:** Nalubaale, Proline FC (Uga), Erbil (Ira) ► **PSL debut:** Free State Stars 2 Kaizer Chiefs 0 (as a sub, 30/11/13) ► **Full debut:** Muculmana 3 Kaizer Chiefs 0 (CAF Champions League, 8/3/14) ► **First goal:** Kaizer Chiefs 2 FC Buffalo 1 (Nedbank Cup, 26/3/14) ► **Honours:** Uganda international, 2014/15 PSL winner, 2014 MTN 8 winner, 2011/12 Iraqi League winner

Career history:

SEASON	CLUB	MATCHES	GOALS
11/12	Erbil (Iraq)	(no records)	
12/13	Erbil	(no records)	
13/14	Kaizer Chiefs	6 (6 sub)	1
14/15	Kaizer Chiefs	5 (6 sub)	0
15/16	Kaizer Chiefs	2 (1 sub)	1
TOTALS		13	2

Correct as at 18/9/2015. League and Cup matches only. Friendlies and charity games not included.

have to be ready. I cannot get worried about waiting to play because everything has its own time. I just have to keep on waiting for my time to come, and train hard.

"The coaches have kept on motivating me at all times and even Katsande himself is always motivating me. I have learnt a lot from him," he explains.

Chiefs coach Steve Komphela and his predecessor Stuart Baxter briefly worked

together a decade ago as national Under-23 and senior national coach respectively, and Bukenya says they share a similarity in approach and philosophy that provided the foundation upon which last season's success is continued.

"There is no big difference because everything is more or less the same in their game-plans and the way they want us to play and execute their instructions. Their tactics are more or less the same. Another plus is that this season the club kept most of the influential players in the team and so they have been pushing the team together," he says.

Bukenya is hopeful that his perseverance at Chiefs will reap the benefits at international level as he has lost his place in Uganda's national team – coach Milutin Sredojevic dropped him due to his lack of game-time at club level.

The presence of Ugandan winger Sula Matovu – who is newly arrived at Naturena – reminds Bukenya daily of the challenge to reclaim a place in his national team. And that can't be a bad thing for Chiefs. **KO**

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HOW TINKLER IMPROVED MAKOLA



ORLANDO Pirates midfielder Mpho Makola has attributed his goalscoring form to the wise advice of head coach Eric Tinkler.

Makola scored a memorable brace against Chippa United recently, and his form in midfield was rewarded with his first call-up to Bafana Bafana.

Tinkler felt that although Makola is an offensive midfielder, he was showing too much reluctance to shoot at goal and has worked with the player on changing that.

Makola responded with three goals in the second half of last season, before adding three this season already for a total of six in the 10 months under Tinkler's guidance.

Prior to this Makola had managed just 13 career goals since breaking into the Premiership at Free State Stars in 2008.

"Tinkler has been honest with me and his advice has helped," the 29-year-old says. "He told me to take shots at goal which is what I have been trying to do, and it has helped."

"Football matches are won by goals and if you don't take shots you will not score, so obviously our game really needs to improve as South Africans in terms of scoring goals."

Makola's brace against Chippa was followed by a sweet finish off a well-worked move against AC Leopards in the CAF Confederation Cup.

A national call-up for an Afcon qualifier and the Nelson Mandela Challenge then followed – and for Makola, that was another goal achieved.

"I think that was top of my list for this season and to have achieved it in the first weeks of the season makes me very happy," he says.

By Lovemore Moyo

INTRODUCING ➔ Randy Ngobe (Polokwane City)

Following in the family tradition

POLOKWANE City midfielder Randy 'Junior' Ngobe might not have established himself in the PSL just yet, but his name is already famous.

Randy is the son of the legendary Thomas 'Junior' Ngobe – who starred for Witbank Aces in the 1980s – and the younger brother of former Bafana Bafana and Orlando Pirates midfield star, Dumisa Ngobe. Another sibling Sibusiso had a brief stint at Jomo Cosmos.

Randy offers a different dimension in the branches of footballers from his family tree. He is a left-footed winger who made a bold entrance into the PSL with a the crack-

ing drive onto the crossbar that led to Puleg Tlolané's follow-up equaliser against Kaizer Chiefs in August.

That creative influence and penetrative effect are the hallmarks of this 24-year-old, who joined Rise and Shine in July from NFD club Witbank Spurs.

He spent four years at Spurs after arriving from amateur club Lynville All Stars, and two years ago came close to joining Bloemfontein Celtic, but they opted not to sign him in the end.

"I started out as a left-back then switched to left-wing in the First Division, but Kosta Papic has converted me into a wide midfielder," Ngobe says.

"Now that I have finally arrived in the PSL I want to use this as a platform to greater things. I find the PSL is not too difficult and the Chiefs game has motivated me even more.

"What I am really aiming for is to be consistent because that is one thing which most players in this country lack. If I can be consistent then I know that I can make the most of this short career as a footballer."

Spurs boss Themba Mafu believes Ngobe "will go far".

"Randy's work-ethic is what will take him far in his career, plus the fact that he has support from his family will help him.



"Randy loves football so much that he used to come to the club and borrow hurdles and cones just to train with his friends at the stadium during the off-season," Mafu says.

By Lovemore Moyo

Why Bance bounced



The on-off transfer of Aristide Bance to Chippa United, blow by blow.

July 8: KickOff.com reports that Bance has arrived in Cape Town to pen a deal with a PSL team, believed to be Chippa United, who are training in the Mother City.

July 24: Bance's agent, Dennis Idrissa, claims negotiations between his client and Chippa have broken down.

August 7: It is reported that Bance is now training with Bidvest Wits.

August 10: Bance turns out in Wits colours for a training match against Nedbank's Ke Yona Team (pictured)

August 12: Chilli Boys boss Chippa Mpengesi claims they have a signed contract with Bance. He provides a picture to KickOff.com showing the striker at a signing ceremony. Wits CEO Jose Ferreira responds by saying 'it's Chippa's problem'.

August 13: Wits announce they have decided against signing Bance, claiming 'he didn't make it'. Mpengesi says the player is theirs and he will return to PE next week.

August 24: Bance confirms he had signed a contract with Chippa, but says it was on condition that the club made certain payments before July 31, which they failed to do, making the contract null and void.

August 28: Mpengesi announces that the deal to bring Bance to the club is complete, and that he has signed a three-deal.

September 8: Bance meets KickOff.com at OR Tambo Airport before jetting off to France, and again insists that he is not a Chippa player, saying they have the old contract containing the clause that he was supposed to be paid before July 31.

September 9: Mpengesi rejects Bance's claims, saying they did pay his money and produce a picture of his PSL registration card. He claims the striker has three people 'representing' him.

• At the time of going to print, Bance had not returned to South Africa.

fortherecord

Ajax Cape Town

► The club has registered teenage Zimbabwean striker Thomas Chideu from Highlanders.

► The Urban Warriors have signed midfielder Erwin Isaacs, who spent last season on loan with the Cape side from Wits, on a two-year deal.

Bidvest Wits

► Two exciting prospects from the club's feeder team, Somila Ntsundwana and Lerotoli Manala, have been registered with the PSL as first team players.

Bloemfontein Celtic

► Youth international forward Dumisani Zuma's name is being circulated in Europe with the hope that the 20-year-old can travel for trials next year.

► Out-of-favour goalkeeper Thembaletu Moses is in negotiations with the club regarding the termination of his contract.

Chippa United

► Lerato Chabangu is training with the club with the hope of securing a contract. After Moroka Swallows were relegated Chabangu expected to sign for Bidvest Wits, but he failed to secure a contract.

► United has reserved their last foreign spot for Nigerian goalkeeper Daniel Akpeyi, who they signed two months ago from Warri Wolves.

► Ruben Cloete and James Okwuosa face a club Disciplinary Committee after they came to blows during the recent defeat to Free State Stars.

► The club has re-appointed Floyd Mogale as assistant coach. Mogale had been in the same position at Free State Stars, but lost his job following the appointment of Ernst Middendorp.

Free State Stars

► The club has reunited with Reuben Thebakang and handed him a one-year deal. He was expected to

leave the club for AmaZulu during pre-season.

► Malawian coach Kinnah Phiri, who was recently shown the door, has returned home where he is rumoured to be under consideration for a position on the staff of the national team under Ernest Mtawali.

Jomo Cosmos

► Zimbabwean striker Ralph Matema, understood to still be under contract at Cosmos, has surfaced in Zimbabwe where he is training with former club Highlanders. Matema has been waiting for a South African permanent residence permit.

► Long-serving goalkeeper coach Pangi Merikani has left the club and returned to DR Congo.

Kaizer Chiefs

► Off-season signing Daniel Cardoso has started training having recovered from a shin bone injury.

► The club has loaned out their Reserve League goalkeeper Shandukani Mulovhedzi to Chippa United. Luthando Sixhaso has been promoted to fourth-choice keeper in the first team.

Mamelodi Sundowns

► Bongani Zungu, whose contract expires next June, is wanted by Portuguese side Vitória de Guimarães, who reportedly offered R6-million for the 22-year-old.

► The club is keen on loaning out Zimbabwean midfielder Kudakwashe Mahachi during the next transfer window as they have exhausted their foreign quota.

► Nigerian winger Ejike Uzoenyi is also stuck at the club, another victim of the foreign quota. Uzoenyi's representatives are trying find him a new club.

Maritzburg United

► The club parted ways with coach Mandla Ncikazi following their poor start to the season.

► Abia Nale has failed to secure a deal with the KZN club.

► Maritzburg is keen on extending the contract of Ryan de Jongh, whose deal expires at the end of the season.

MP Black Aces

► Ghana defender Kwabena Adu-sei remains at the club following his return from a long-term knee injury. His foreign space has been kept open.

► Liberian defender Dirkir Glay has signed, joining compatriot Kpah Sherman.

► Exciting teenage midfielder Potego Malatji has been brought in from the School of Excellence.

Orlando Pirates

► The club has brought in Old Mutual Academy graduate Phomolong Samora Motloung as the first team's fourth-choice goalkeeper.

► Pirates have appointed former Bafana Bafana gloveman Rowen Fernandez as the club's new goalkeeper coach.

Platinum Stars

► The club has registered the League's youngest player Kobamelo Kodisang. Kodisang, who was born on August 28, 1999 made his Premiership debut as a substitute against Golden Arrows. He has been included in the Amajimbos squad heading out for the Under-17 World Cup in Chile in October.

Polokwane City

► Malawian striker Esau Kanyenda is due to retire from international football at the end of the year after serving The Flames for 15 years.

SuperSport United

► Exciting midfielder Mothusi Gopane has not been registered despite joining the club as recently as January, from Polokwane City.



HOT, HOT HOTTO

AFTER missing the start of the season while he waited for his work-permit, Lamontville Golden Arrows winger Deon Hotto took to the field like a hungry lion when his first chance came to play.

After watching three League matches from the stands, Hotto was eager to pounce, and the unfortunate prey was an unsuspecting Mamelodi Sundowns, who were left licking grievous wounds after they received a mauling at Chatsworth Stadium.

The Namibian international attacked with pace down the left side and roamed hungrily inside, seeking opportunities to attack from central positions as well. He let fly on goal at will, and while some of his shots lacked direction, he caused panic among those in front of him.

"First game, Man of the Match and three points ... yeah, a great start for me," he smiled after the match.

The 24-year-old joined Abafana Bes'thende in January 2014, and was a vital member of the squad that won the National First Division last season.

His star rose further during the Cosafa Cup tournament in May, when he scored both goals in the Final as Namibia beat Mozambique at Moru-leng Stadium.

Hotto netted four goals in the tournament, and predictably a number of PSL teams, including Orlando Pirates, began showing serious interest in him.

"I saw in the media that Pirates wanted to sign me but, honestly speaking, the boss, Irvin Khoza never phoned me about his team's interest," Hotto says.

"Even if there were PSL teams that approached me, I don't think I would have joined any of them as I'm still happy here at Arrows, and am fully focused on helping the team challenge for silverware.

"I had been with the team for just five months when they got relegated, and I went down with them to the NFD and we fought hard for promotion. So I'm looking forward to this new challenge with the team."

Last season, then-Arrows coach Shaun Bartlett used Hotto as his impact player, bringing him on to run at opponents as their energy levels dropped.

Bartlett felt he got more out of Hotto that way than when he started him, as the winger seemed to fizzle out in the second half of games he started.

Of his 28 League appearances, 24 were as substitute. Nonetheless, Hotto said he was feeling fitter at the end of the season than he had earlier, and he is determined to improve his game and to score more than the three NFD goals he scored last season.

If Hotto can start finding the net more regularly, more sides are going to come back from Ethekwini this season feeling like they've been in the lion's den.

By Sibusiso Mdlalose



SPOTLIGHT | William Twala (Chippa United)

NAME: William Nkululeko Twala
NICKNAME: Tsiki
BORN: 21/2/90 in Diepkloof, Soweto
LOVELIFE: Dating; with a 20-month-old son
PREVIOUS CLUBS: City Rebels, Wits juniors, Orlando Pirates juniors and Yebo Yes United, FC AK, Chippa United, Golden Arrows, Pirates
CAR: VW Cross Polo
CELLPHONE: iPhone 5s



ON THE PITCH

Do you ever get worried about the lack of goals in your game?

Most definitely! How can I be happy having scored just two goals since I started playing in the PSL? The lack of goals is such a huge concern that I am putting all my energy into making sure this aspect of my game aligns to all else. I think my challenge is that I tend to try too much when I get into the box and then end up doing the wrong thing. Strangely, I used to score plenty of goals in the juniors and even during my time in the First Division.

What is the reason behind colouring your hair on match-days?

[Laughing] In my first season at Pirates I never played as the coach had already settled on his team, so I figured that I needed to come up with a fresh idea to attract his attention. So I decided to tint my hair so that not only the coach, but also the media noticed me. That worked like magic for me – I was suddenly not the invisible guy I had been.

What is the difference between playing for Chippa and Pirates?

Pirates is a team of internationals so the hunger, determination and ambition amongst the players is not the same when compared to Chippa. The big teams demand immediate results while here there is a level of patience because we mostly have players that are either starting out or trying to resuscitate their careers.

“ I decided to tint my hair so that the coach and also the media noticed me. ”

Will you ever consider going back to Pirates?

Yes! Even though I struggled to play often the last time out, I feel if I go back older, more experienced and having made a name for myself, then I will play more. Pirates is like home for me, but for now I am concentrating all my energy on Chippa.

OFF THE PITCH

Have you taken notice of how much the Rand has dropped in comparison to other major currencies on the money markets?

Now you are taking me to business school! The truth is I haven't really noticed that the Rand has been on a slide. But I do watch the news because I want to be in touch with the world that I am living in.

What is the longest distance you have ever driven?

I drove from Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth not so long ago when I came from home to link up with the team. It was a draining 10-hour drive during which I only stopped at the garage to refuel and grab something to eat. When I got to PE I was dead tired and I told myself I'll never do this again. Next time I will send my car on the train. I now appreciate the work long-distance drivers do.

Do you believe in love at first sight?

[Laughing] Not really! Do you believe

in that fairy-tale yourself? Love at first sight will end as quickly as it started, because I don't think you can genuinely fall in love with someone by merely looking at them. Their appearance might be good, but what if the character is very far from what you want to be dealing with?

Do you think the Springboks can win the World Cup?

Seeing that we share a stadium with the EP Kings who I make the effort to watch, I have taken more interest in rugby. I believe in the Springboks and they stand a good chance. We really have to win this World Cup and I hope my favourite player Bryan Habana delivers down the wing. I love rugby wingers because I also play as a winger.

By Lovemore Moyo

ONE-TWOS

Port Elizabeth or Cape Town?
Cape Town

Exclusive Books or CNA?

Exclusive Books, I like books!

Kendrick Lamar or Drake?

Drake

BP or Shell?

BP

Catholic or Methodist?

Methodist



Watch this guy! - The Multichoice Diski Challenge kicked off in September with a feast of goals. Kaizer Chiefs demolished Jomo Cosmos 4-0 on the opening day, with Emmanuel Letlotlo (*pictured*) scoring a brace. He scored two the next week, as Chiefs came from behind in a 4-4 draw with Maritzburg United.

WORDS



"It's not about Shakes alone: I've got friends, employers, kids and my lovely wife who I think loses weight when she hears some of these things. I'm sure sometimes she's saying, 'Why did I allow him to take this job?'" – Shakes Mashaba on his family taking strain from media criticism.



Good month for ... **George Lebeso**

who has struck a rich vein of form, scoring six goals in seven matches for Soweto giants Kaizer Chiefs.



Bad month for ... **Mandla Ncikazi**

who failed to register a win and was sacked by Maritzburg United after just four games.



PALOOKA



Itumeleng Khune, for his horrific fumble versus Mauritania, which resulted in their first goal. You should wear glasses Itu ... Oh, wait ...



PLAYMAKER



Mpho Makola, who scored a beauty on his Bafana Bafana debut in their 1-0 Nelson Mandela Cup Challenge victory over Senegal.

Also last month

- Anelie Ngcongca joins Troyes in the French Ligue 1, on loan from Genk.
- Banyana Banyana are knocked out of the All Africa Games group stages via the drawing of lots.
- The City of Cape Town agree terms for Kaizer Chiefs to host three 'home' PSL matches at Cape Town Stadium.
- Ajax Cape Town striker Prince Nxumalo is taken to ICU after suffering an epilepsy attack on the eve of his side's MTN8

semi-final against Bidvest Wits.



- Benni McCarthy confirmed as assistant coach of Belgian top-flight side Sint-Truidense.
- Former Nigeria international captain Segun Odegbami announces his intention to run for Fifa president.

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BEST OF THE BEST | Benedict 'Tso' Vilakazi

Orlando Pirates' leading goalscorer of all time with 58 goals, *BENEDICT 'TSO' VILAKAZI* has fond memories of a career that spanned almost 15 years.

Best moment in career

That was when I signed my first PSL contract with Orlando Pirates. I never thought that I would ever get a contract because Pirates already had some great players – there were guys like Godfrey Sapula, Brandon Silent, Thabo Mngomeni ... the list goes on. I used to watch them from a distance on TV and I loved the way they played, but it was something else to be rubbing shoulders with them.

Best teammate

The late Lesley Manyathela – we had a very good understanding. We were good friends and his parents knew me. I was very sad when he passed away [on 9 August 2003]. I couldn't believe it and I struggled for form after that. I had a good partnership with him, so it was difficult for me without him. But with the help of the chairman [Irvin Khoza] I was able to move on. The chairman knew I was very close to Lesley, so he played a big part in helping me come to terms with the whole thing. The late Sis' Zodwa [Khoza] was also there for me.

Best midfield partner

I have four guys in mind and I was on top of my game when I played with them: Godfrey Sapula, Thabo Mngomeni, Edelbert Dinha and Onyekachi Okonkwo. So those four guys, yessus, if you want me to talk about them we can do that the whole day. I was always buzzing when I played with them. I could move forward without any worries because I knew they had my back; that's one of the reasons I scored so many goals from midfield.

Best captain

Thabo Mngomeni, because he had the qualities of a leader; he led by example at all times on and off the field. If something was troubling me, that guy was always there for me. Having Thabo next to me, I had this thing of 'no-one can touch me'. He used to say to me, 'Boy, take them on and if you lose the ball, that's fine. It happens to the best players in the world'. He gave me that sense of



confidence in myself.

Best player ever seen

I can name a lot, but Thabo Mngomeni was totally different – to me, he was out of this world. He had his own way of playing, his own style ... I have never seen a player like that. I know people talk about Messi and Ronaldo, but they forget our own. Thabo was one of the very best.

Best opponent you faced

There were quite a few ... Esrom Nyandoro, Shane Poggenpoel and Peter Khoabane. And the guy from Platinum Stars. He also played for AmaZulu ... Stanley Kgatla, that's his name. Yessus, that man. He would kick you. He used to give me a headache and when I went to drink water by the sidelines, he would be right there

next to me – he knew how to deal with the danger men. I must also mention Tinashe Nengomasha.

Best pitch ever played on

The Park of Pain [Ellis Park]. The atmosphere there was just very, very good.

Best goal scored

Let me mention three. One was when I scored the winning goal against Nigeria in the [2004] Nelson Mandela Challenge – that was the first time we beat Nigeria. The second one was also for Bafana, when we beat Malawi 1-0 in Durban to win the Cosafa Cup for the first time, in 2002. The third was for Pirates when we beat Chiefs 2-1 at FNB Stadium in 2004 and I scored with a header. I used to score goals against Chiefs and people used to

say that I was fighting with Brian Baloyi, but I used to say to them, 'I'm just working and Brian is also working'.

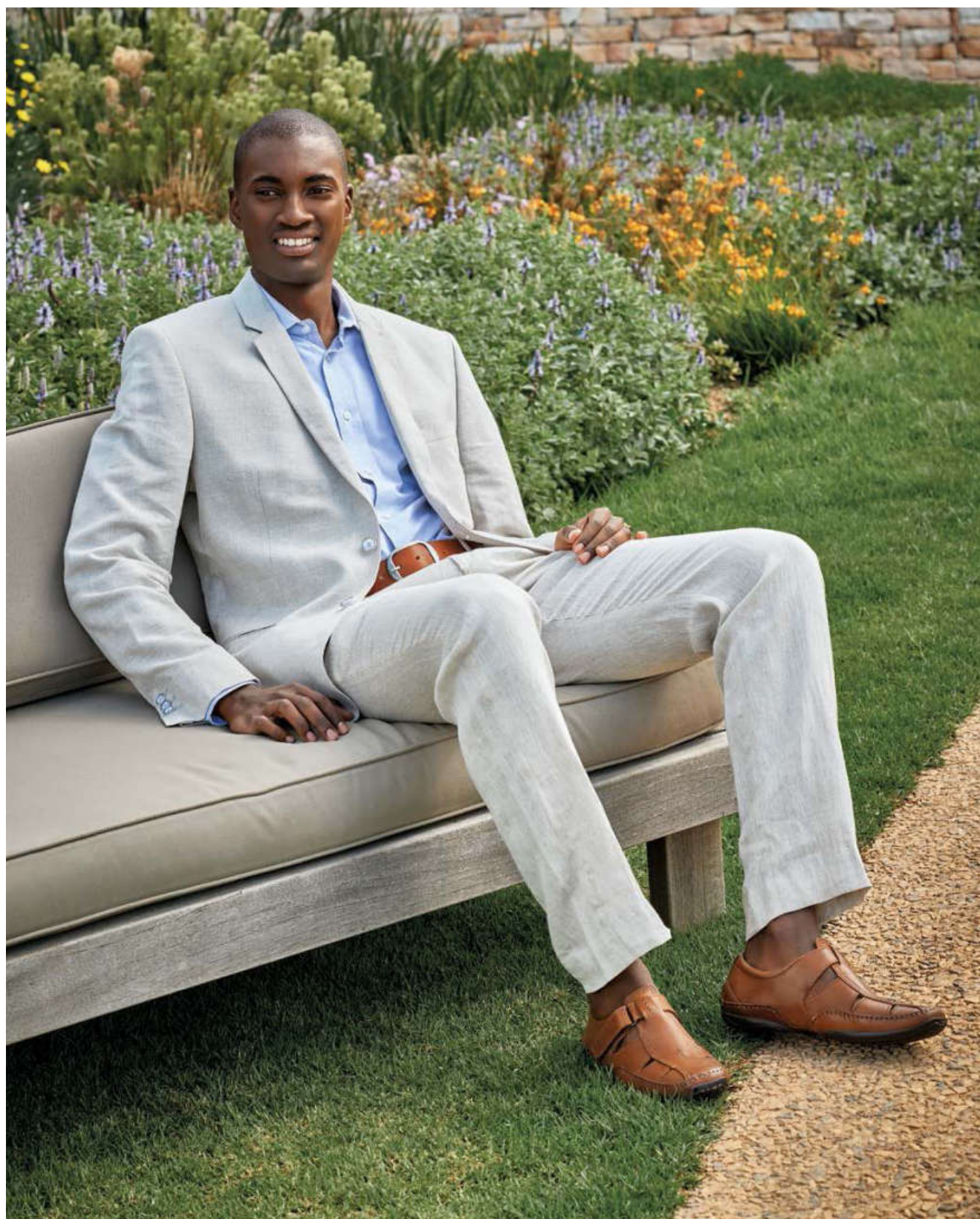
Best Soweto Derby you played in

Any Derby game was the best. There was pressure and emotions involved. There was pressure from the supporters, the chairman, friends, parents and even teammates. It was never an easy game.

Best referee

Daniel Bennett. The funny thing is I was always fighting with him. I would shout and he would scream at me as well, but he is the best. He knew how to deal with his emotions.

By Tiyani wa ka Mabasa



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'NO PAIN, NO GAIN' – MASANGO

MANDLA Masango says he is enjoying life in Denmark and is coping with the demands of the Danish Superliga following his debut goal for Randers FC in August.

Masango made a bold move in rejecting contract renewal offers from Kaizer Chiefs towards the close of last season, choosing to look for a move abroad instead.

He penned a three-year deal with Randers at the beginning of August, and now that he is settled the midfielder is able to reflect on the months since helping Chiefs win the League.

The 26-year-old describes the period between his last match for Chiefs on 9 May 2015 and the day he signed for Randers as "painful", but insists it was something he had to go through in order to advance his career.

"There's the saying 'no pain, no gain'. You have to know what you want and stick to what you want, because at the end of the day nobody else owns your life. Some players don't get their chance to go and play overseas, so I count myself as blessed," Masango says.

The former Chiefs winger is impressed with the standard

Mandla Masango is adapting well to Danish football after his move to Randers FC



of football he has encountered in Denmark.

"They move the ball quicker and can realise empty spaces way before they receive the ball. Players don't waste time on the ball and it has to keep rotating all the time. They are also more tactically aware of what's happening in the game," Masango says.

"One wrong move and they punish you – so you must

make sure that you reset all the time; as soon as you lose the ball you have to get back into shape. That's the most important thing here."

The Bafana Bafana midfielder says that being from South Africa, he is at a slight disadvantage compared to players who come from West Africa.

"West Africa is much closer to Europe, so European

players don't tend to come to South Africa – they say it's too far and have all of these stories. Most West African players go overseas when they are young, and their domestic leagues also cannot be compared to the PSL, which is far better than most of their leagues. So for them, moving at an earlier age is an advantage."

By Chad Klate

Swedish fans hail 'captain' Tefu



FORMER Kaizer Chiefs defender Tefu Mashamaite is settling in well in the Swedish capital Gothenburg following his debut for BK Hacken.

Mashamaite played the full 90 minutes as he helped Hacken to a 4-1 win over Matthew Rusike's Halmstads BK on 14 September, and was pleased to finally get a run after watching his team from the stands for four weeks while waiting for his work-permit.

The KICK OFF Footballer of the Season says the club supporters have given him

a warm reception: "It was beautiful; not just during my debut, but ever since I arrived here. When we played the Indian team Delhi Dynamos [coached by Roberto Carlos], they cheered 'Well done, captain'. I think they were referring to me having captained Kaizer Chiefs. They know what I have done in South Africa."

'Masha' is impressed with the standard of football in Sweden and says: "The structure and organisation is much better. Players here work on getting the

basics right first and everything else is an extra."

Mashamaite has found himself an apartment in Gothenburg – "about five minutes from the training ground and ten minutes from the stadium" – and he plans to migrate his family to Sweden next year.

The 2015 Allsvenskan is approaching its climax, with the last round of fixtures played at the end of October. The new season will kick off in March 2016.

By Chad Klate

SECRETS OF THE STARS

10 things you did not know about Mamelodi Sundowns captain **Ramahlwe Mphahlele**



1 Ramahlwe Mphahlele hails from Ga-Mphahlele and is of royal blood. "I'm from a royal family, but we are not involved in the chieftaincy," he says.

2 Rama's mother Cylia is an Orlando Pirates fan and once asked him to get her Andile Jali's jersey.

3 During his time with Moroka Swallows' junior side, Mphahlele came up against Danny Welbeck in a match against Manchester United in Hong Kong in 2004. The Brazilian twins Fabio and Rafael also played for United in that encounter.

4 Mphahlele and teammate Hlompho Kekana played together at junior level for the Turfloop Sports School of Excellence in Polokwane.

5 Mphahlele confesses that he once stole boots while he was at the Turfloop academy. "SuperSport United were coming to play us, but my boots had been stolen, so I stole another pair. The problem was they were size 5 and I was a size 7 and after the match I had blisters all over my feet," he laughs.

6 The first time Rama went for trials was at Bidvest Wits in 2002,

and because he did not have money to pay for the trip, he had to sit on the floor against the door. Lehlogonolo Masalesa, as a paying customer, was sat comfortably in a seat.

7 Rama always wanted to study medicine, but realised later on that maths was an important subject to qualify for medicine, and his maths wasn't that great. He did, however, excel in biology and geography. "I was always fascinated by how things work or come to be. I liked discovering the names and definitions of things, especially things related to the mind and body."

8 Rama has been captain of many sides: SuperSport United Under-14, the national U-17, U-20 and U-23, and even the African representative team that played against Europe in the Meridian Cup.

9 Mphahlele's biggest fear is struggling financially after retiring, and he confesses that this plays on his mind "all the time".


10 When he signed his first professional contract with Moroka Swallows in 2007 he used the money to build his mom a house.

By Tiyani wa ka Mabasa



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AMAJITA TO FLY THE FLAG IN CHILE

KICK OFF: What do you make of the team's progress and preparation?

MOLEFI NTSEKI: We got off to a good start with friendly games in Botswana and Lesotho. My main concern has always been the mental aspect – playing at international level is totally different to playing for your local club or academy. They're Under-17 boys, yet they had to play like men. I think they have responded very well.

Can you take us through your selection process?

We selected most of the team from the Safa interprovincial tournament in Soweto and another tournament held in Bloemfontein. We then took the team to Namibia for a four-nations tournament, after which we selected 30 players from 60 starters, and took them to Botswana and Lesotho for friendlies. We then took 18 players to Tanzania for the first qualifier.

Ajax Cape Town complained recently that none of their players made the provisional squad for the World Cup, despite their academy being recognised as one of the best in the country ...

There was an Ajax player who was recommended, Luthando Mateza. He was in the team when we went to Tanzania, but he fell away and we ended up using other players. It is very normal for anybody to want to have players in the squad; that can come from the parents, players, friends, coaches and the clubs. That's football for you and at national level we have to understand that nobody has a permanent position. **How are the World Cup preparations going?**

Things are going according to plan. We came back from Niger with a programme that will be followed until we leave for the World Cup.

South Africa's Under-17 coach Molefi Ntseki feels his team is as ready as can be ahead of the Under-17 World Cup in Chile.



Molefi Ntseki – "At international level nobody has a permanent position."

What are the major challenges?

The life of an Under-17 player is not only football, and the most important thing for them is to try balance school with playing. We have managed to do physical testing with the help of the professors and doctors from the University of Johannesburg. They did a very good job in terms of physical and mental preparation.

How did you improve fitness?

We went to camp on 26 June and did our physical assessment, but prior to the camp the boys were writing examinations so they were not training. They were made aware when they left camp that we will be doing physical testing in August, so they made their coaches aware to prepare them properly.

What's the solution to ensure players can do well both at school and on the pitch?

From our perspective it would help to have a common curriculum – that would mean we could easily get them into class between training sessions. But that is a big challenge because some players are in private

schools and others attend public schools.

How much time are you going to have with the team before you leave for the World Cup?

The boys reported for camp on 18 September and we leave for Chile on 29 September, so around two weeks.

Some believe we got a 'kind draw' because our group opponents are Costa Rica, Korea DPR and Russia ...

After qualifying we knew very well that we would be playing teams that have also qualified to play there, so every team, irrespective of the continent, stands a good chance.

What is unique about this tournament?

We were told that all the players who will be playing in the World Cup will be doing so for the first time, so everybody will be experiencing and experimenting for the first time.

What is your message to South Africa?

The boys did well in Niger and we must have that belief again. Believe in us now that we are going to the World Cup.

By Tiyani wa ka Mabasa

Provisional U-17 squad

Goalkeepers: Mondli Mpoto (*SuperSport Academy*), Sanele Tshabalala (*Bidvest Wits Academy*), Walter Kubheka (*Sundowns Academy*), Sizwe Skei (*Kaizer Chiefs Academy*)

Defenders: Luyanda Gumede (*AmaZulu Academy*), Notha Ngcobo (*Sundowns Academy*), Keanu Cupido (*Diambars*), Katlego Mohammed (*SuperSport Academy*), Thendo Mukumela (*Sundowns Academy*), Riyaz Ismail (*Hellenic FC*)

Midfielders: Wiseman Meyiwa (*Kaizer Chiefs Academy*), Thato Ramogogodi (*School of Excellence*), Nelson Maluleke (*SuperSport Academy*), Sibongakonke Mbatha (*School of Excellence*), Liam Jordan (*Bidvest Wits Academy*), Tebogo Qinisile (*Roses United*), Charles Baloyi (*Platinum Stars Academy*), Tyreese Pillay (*Pimville Young Stars*), Malebogo Modise (*Sundowns Academy*), Simon Nqoi (*SuperSport Academy*)

Strikers: Khanyisa Mayo (*SuperSport Academy*), Luvuyo Mkhathshana (*Bidvest Wits Academy*), Kobamelo Kodisang (*Platinum Stars Academy*), Dylan Stoffels (*AmaZulu Academy*), Johannes Mphokgoane (*Moria Sweepers*).

REST IN PEACE



CYRIL ZUMA

KICK OFF staff were saddened to hear of the passing of former Under-23 captain Cyril Zuma. Zuma was struck by a car in August and spent four weeks in a coma before succumbing on Friday, 4 September.

Zuma captained the national Under-23 side under Steve Komphela and played for Maritzburg United, Moroka Swallows, City Pillars and Mpumalanga Black Aces.

Zuma's former business manager Mike Maakab told KickOff.com that he was saddened by the death of his former client. "I looked after him some time ago," Maakab says. "Let me tell you, he was a super talented player and unfortunately he never quite realised his full potential because I don't think he was serious about his career. But without a doubt, a really, really talented player and a good person. May his soul rest in peace and may God give the family the strength, courage in this difficult time."

Rest in Peace Msholozzi.



CHARLES GYAMFI

Former Ghana national team coach Charles Gyamfi passed at the age of 85 on 2 September.

In 1960 Gyamfi joined German

side Fortuna Dusseldorf, making him the first African player to play in Germany.

After hanging up his boots he moved into coaching and became the first coach to win the Africa Cup of Nations three times (1963, 1965 and 1982), all with Ghana's Black Stars.

The record is now equalled by former Egypt national team coach Hassan Shehata, who won the tournament in 2006, 2008 and 2010.

Gyamfi also led the Ghana side in the 1964 and 1972 Olympics in Tokyo and Munich.

Rest in Peace Gyamfi.



JOHANNES PILUSA

Former Real Rovers and Moroka Swallows player Johannes Pilusa passed away in the early hours of 1 September at the age of 44 after a long illness.

The striker started his professional career in the NSL First Division with Real Rovers.

He then moved to Moroka Swallows and later played for Dynamos, AmaZulu, Silver Stars, Black Leopards, Avondale Athletic and Hellenic.

He also worked as Swallows' youth coach, and head coach of Mabopane Young Masters.

Rest in Peace Fire.

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Where are they now? Joel Masilela

STILL PLENTY OF FIRE LEFT IN MASILELA

Joel 'Fire' Masilela is still buzzing at top speed, but these days he's not hugging the touchline. He invests in the next generation and his eldest son is a rising star worth taking note of. By Neil Greig.

KICK OFF: Joel Masilela, it has been a long time ... how are you?

I am good; I feel blessed and grateful. I have a job and get to work with many talented young players: I work for my old club Sundowns and I am with my family every day.

Bree Primary School won the Danone Under-12 Cup and will represent South Africa in the World Cup in October ...

Yes, but I am not to be confused with the school's coach! I simply brought my team to play a friendly against them and then I shared some ideas and gave them advice on what they should do when they reach the finals [in Morocco]. They are a good team and it's fun to watch them ... they are talented kids with so much ability.

What keeps you busy these days?

Lots of work on my side (laughing). I have a few teams to look after – the Sundowns U-13 and U-15 teams – and I also run our satellite teams. We have teams across places like Soweto, Diepsloot, Tembisa, Witbank, Limpopo and the North West. We identify young talent, then bring the best players back to play at Chloorkop and get into our Sundowns academy.

How long have you been doing this and did you have any other interests before returning to Sundowns?

I went to Sundowns in 2012 and volunteered to work alongside Joas Magolego and the coaches from Spain. The coaches saw that I was patient and committed

Returnee – Phil Setshedi rejoined Orlando Pirates from Jomo Cosmos



and I received a contract with the club. It is great to be alongside guys like Russel Molefe, Mike Manzini, Godfrey Sapula and Isaac Shai – all working in the academy, and there is a lot of soccer knowledge to share with the kids.

When you watch a Sundowns PSL match, what goes through your mind?

I believe Sundowns still need to get to a place where we dominate local football. The club has invested a lot of money and so should conquer all – but it won't happen overnight, it will take a while, it's a long journey. With guys like Pitso Mosimane and Mike Ntombela at the top ... I think the club will go far.

What about dominating in African club competitions?

Africa is next. The president [Patrice Motsepe] is eager for this and is very positive about the future. He always talks about dominating in

Africa and winning the Champions League. It is something that he wants!

When you turn your eyes to Bafana Bafana, what do you feel?

We had a difficult time in my day because everyone was fighting to play for the national team and there were many soldiers. Shakes Mashaba knows the problem. Any football person can see. If you don't have players who can stamp their authority on the game, then no coach can succeed. In my day, we had soldiers: guys like Linda Buthelezi who did not worry about money, politics – it was about playing with all your heart! Players of today's generation need to do the same for their clubs and their country.

Tell us about your family life; we hear you have a son who is knocking on the first team door at Sundowns?

Sometimes I play a bit of 5-a-side or Sunday league ... I still give it my best (laughing), but I am 45 now so it is time for others. I am living in Mamelodi with my family and my kids and everyone is with me. My son Thamsanqa Masia is 18 and he is playing in the Diski League for Sundowns. He knows his dad could play. He is a centre forward or he can play out on the wings, and he has a future if he works hard. Thami won the Kay Motsepe Cup in 2014 when he played for Clapham High, and the coaches at the first team, Pitso Mosimane and Manqoba Mngqithi, are very encouraged about my boy. This brings me joy. I also have three daughters and another son – five kids altogether. I am very blessed to see them all healthy and living close to me.



The great 'Soccer Split' claims its first casualty

MARCH 3, 1985 A bad start for the NSL as the Champions of Champions match between African Wanderers and Durban City is called off five minutes from time. Referee Rajith Ramluckan is beaten by a mob as Wanderers supporters invade the pitch after a controversial penalty decision with City leading 2-0. The new NSL elect Leepile Tuayane as their chairman and Roger Sishi as vice-chairman at their initial general meeting.

MARCH 5 The first NSL disciplinary committee fines African Wanderers R5 000 for the 'Cup Riot' and kicks them out of the competition. Durban City is fined R2 000 for a lack of security.

MARCH 6 George Thabe fights back at the defection of his professional clubs by saying the NPSL will continue with 18 clubs (*See previous edition*).

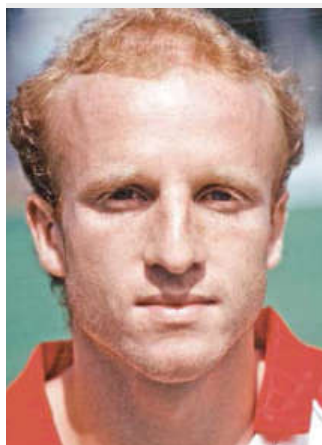
MARCH 8 The SABC sign a R500 000 television rights contract with the NSL.

MARCH 11 The NSL announce they are to launch the new Castle League season with double-headers in Johannesburg and Durban and a local derby in Cape Town.

MARCH 12 Jan 'Malombo' Lechaba is suspended by Kaizer Chiefs after trying to get some of his teammates to join a new club in Thabe's rival NPSL.

MARCH 15 A group of dissident supporters attempt to hijack the Orlando Pirates bus on its way to a friendly match in Mmabatho. A kombi and a car force the Pirates bus off the road, but it turns out to be the wrong bus – one that is carrying only officials. The players arrive at the scene in their own bus minutes later and lay into the ambushers.

MARCH 20 Ace Ntsoelengoe announces that he is leaving Chiefs to set up his own team in the NPSL called Ace Mates. Lechaba is to join him. Patson Banda



First goalscorer – Marco Filemino

leaves Pirates to join their namesakes in the NPSL while Aubrey Makgopela, Aaron Makhathini, Congo Malebane and Joel Mnini register with a Swallows breakaway side in the NPSL called The Birds.

MARCH 22 Aaron Makhathini is shot and killed in Soweto by unknown assailants; the first casualty of the great 'Soccer Split'.

Marco Filomeno, a Swiss import, scores the first Castle League goal in the new NSL era as Hellenic beat Cape Town Spurs in the opening game of the season in front of 18 000 at Hartleyvale.

MARCH 23 Three men attack Pirates official China Hlongwane, who attempts to lead a rival team out on the pitch at Ellis Park for Pirates' first game of the new season, against Jomo Cosmos. Fans watch horrified as Hlongwane is repeatedly stabbed and pictures of the sordid scene are carried world-wide the day after. He is rushed to hospital. The match goes on, and the 'real Pirates' line-up draws 2-2.

MARCH 26 Phil Setshedi rejoins Pirates from Jomo Cosmos.

APRIL 1 Sergio dos Santos is set to be the



Returnee – Phil Setshedi rejoined Orlando Pirates from Jomo Cosmos

new coach of Pirates.

APRIL 17 Victor Twala returns to the Pirates fold after playing for the breakaway Pirates team with same name in the NPSL.

APRIL 18 Augusto Palacios walks out on Witbank Black Aces again, defecting to NPSL club Adriatica.

APRIL 19 Bloemfontein Celtic win for the first time in the season, beating Chiefs 1-0 at Ellis Park. Benjamin Reed scores the 86th minute winner. Earlier, goalkeeper Isaac Matsibya saves a penalty. Bush Bucks stay top of the League after beating Aces 4-2 while Cosmos win 5-0 away at African Wanderers.

APRIL 26 Walter da Silva returns to coaching at Mamelodi Sundowns.

MAY 31 Joe Frickleton resigns as coach of Kaizer Chiefs after his side are beaten 3-0 by Cosmos at Thokoza. John Serathi leaves the NPSL version of Pirates to join African Wanderers.

JUNE 3 The two versions of Orlando Pirates say they are to unite by the end of

the season. The NSL fines AmaZulu R1 000 for using defaulter Joel Faya in their win over Celtic in April and orders the match be replayed.

JUNE 4 The NSL tells Witbank Black Aces that the R10 000 asking price for Amos Mkhari, who is seeking to move to Pirates, is too high.

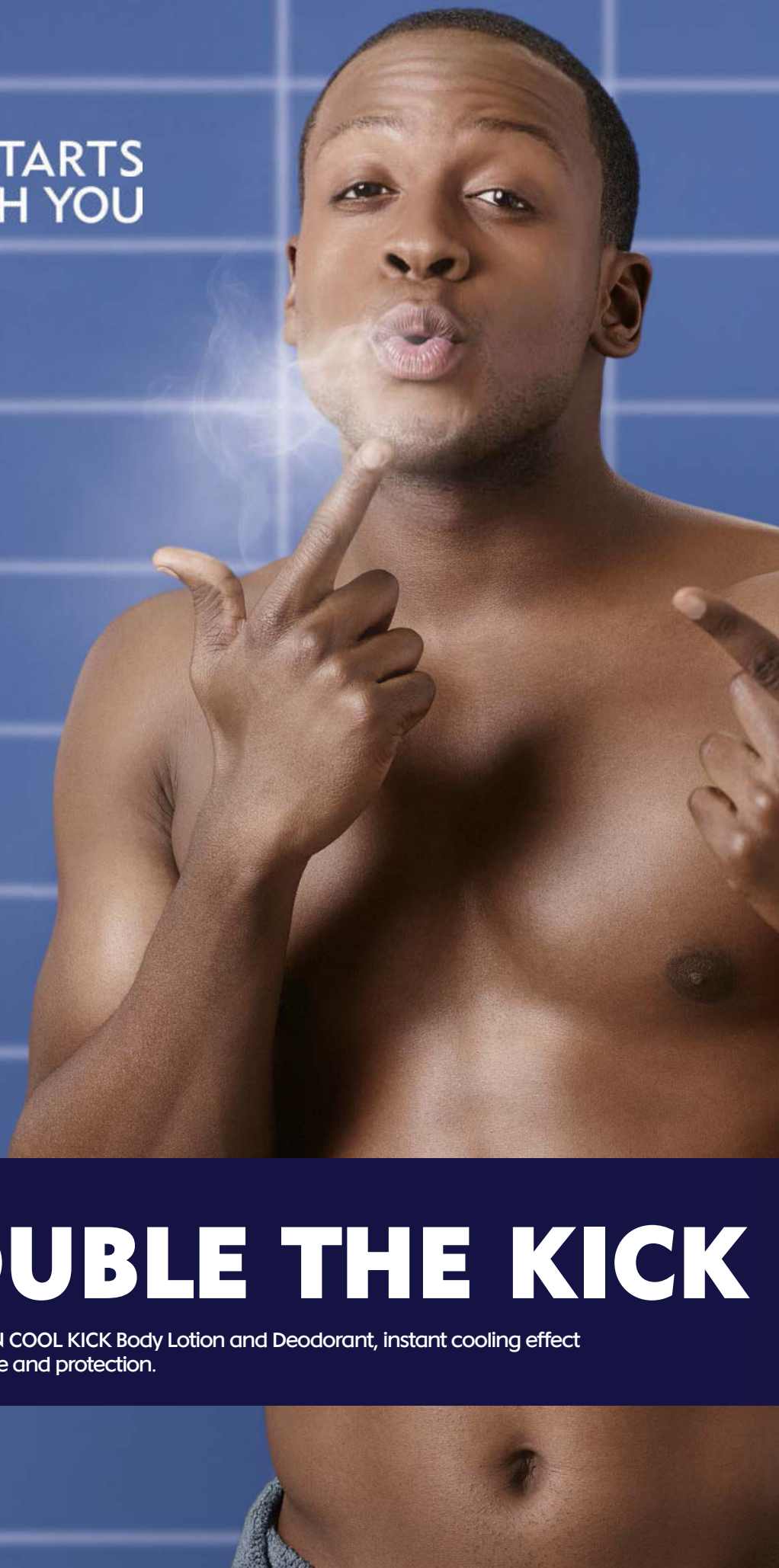
JUNE 5 Jomo Cosmos threaten to go to court to stop Witbank Aces fielding winger Gordon Igesund unless they are paid the outstanding balance of R8 000 owed on the transfer fee. Moroka Swallows managing director David Chabeli appears in court on murder charges relating to the shooting to death of Johannes Mawila, secretary of The Birds club in the NPSL. Chabeli and two fellow accused are not asked to plead and the case is postponed.

JUNE 7 Pirates' Chilean goalkeeper Alejandro Heredia is transfer-listed after he attacks his own coach Phil Setshedi when he is taken off during a 3-0 defeat at Cape Town Spurs.

JUNE 24 The NSL comes out in favour of the Fifa ban on South Africa in a major shift in policy from the past.



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“ It was
frustrating, just
sitting at home,
always in courts ...
it's not a place you
want to be. ”



MAN IN A

HURRY

At the start of the year, very few could claim to know the name **Riyaad Norodien**. But the Ajax Cape Town youngster has since burst onto the scene, and feels there is much more to come.

BY FABIO DE DOMINICIS

A Man of the Match performance in his first home match of the season was how young Ajax Cape Town talent Riyaad Norodien introduced himself to the PSL.

The 20-year-old winger had made his senior debut away from home just six days earlier following 17 months on the sidelines, and describes the exuberant feeling he continues to experience in finally being able to don the Ajax first team shirt.

"It's always a privilege and an honour to wear the jersey – I always dreamt about it," he says. "There was a stage where I thought that wouldn't come true – I was at home, frustrated, but I got back up – I knew the job at hand and what to do to get into the team, and the coach gave me an opportunity to play."

Norodien had been caught in the middle of a legal dispute between his club and his agent Rob Moore which had left him stranded and unable to play, yet he feels he has grown stronger from the trying period when he was forced to watch from afar.

"It was frustrating, just sitting at home, always in courts ... it's not a place you want to be – footballers never want to be off the field, we always want to be on the field. But it made me stronger; it made me realise not to take football for granted," he says. "That time that I was sidelined made me never want to be in that same position again, so I always push myself to make sure I'm in the starting XI."

Norodien recalls the day his football career started: as a bored nine-year-old who sat at home each weekend, one of his mother's friends decided to take him to play at local club Norway Parks. It was a day he'd never forget.

"I went and played, but I didn't have boots," he reminisces. "I played in slippers, and I even scored my first goal! Whenever I needed to run, I'd just kick the slippers out and there I'd go, in my socks. I scored, and we drew that game 1-1 – I remember it was a derby against Kensington – and from there I never looked back."

"The following week I got my first pair of boots. I was a number 9 back then and Ajax scouted me: we played against Ajax, who beat us 5-2, and I scored both our goals. They then spoke to my mom, I had two training sessions with them, and they signed me. I had played just six months with Norway Parks."

After starring in the junior ranks with the Urban Warriors, Norodien was still a seemingly unknown entity to many when, a decade later, he exploded onto the scene, scoring twice and winning two Man of the Match awards in six League matches.

"I came into the team near the end of the season and think I played a vital role – nobody knew me, so it was an extra boost for the team because Ajax did not have many wingers and I fitted in perfectly," he says. "It's a good thing when you catch people by surprise – nobody knew me, ➤"

Bursting through – Norodien pulls away from Felix Obada of Free State Stars

Future stars – Norodien wins the ball from Aupa Moeketsi of the SuperSport Academy during the 2009 Manchester United Premier Cup



RYAN WILKINSKY/BACKPAGEPIX(1) SA BELO MINGOMA/BACKPAGEPIX(1) RYAN WILKINSKY/BACKPAGEPIX(1)

Learning curve



AJAX Cape Town coach Roger de Sa knows he has a gem at his disposal, but feels Norodien needs to lift his game this year after his explosive start last season.

"I'm expecting a lot from him," De Sa says. "For me he hasn't been as electric as he was last season – this season he has been a bit up and down, but that's an area I've had to work on with him and I've spent a lot of time talking to him about it because it becomes more difficult now – other clubs know him, players know him and they know what to expect from him. He's got to change his attitude a bit and he's got to play a bit as a team member at times and not so much for himself.

"He knows that, so it's a learning process for him; he's growing up and he'll get better and better with every game. He hasn't been as good as last season, but I hope he picks it up soon as he's got all the talent."

but now they do and they know what to expect, so it's much tougher now.

"I'm honoured when people talk about me, but I don't let it get to my head – it's good when people notice you and realise your qualities, but you have to maintain your work-rate: the season is long, and if you are sidelined everybody suddenly forgets about you."

Many feel Norodien is Ajax's direct replacement for Keagan Dolly, who made the move north to Mamelodi Sundowns, yet the confident youngster insists otherwise.

"Dolly was a key figure for Ajax last season, but I'm not here to replace him: I'm here to give more to the team – he had his own game-plan, and I have mine," he says.

"Dolly and I were close and spoke often, but people shouldn't think I'm here to replace him ... rather I'm here to give the team extra momentum going forward."

Despite his talent, Norodien acknowledges he is not the finished product as he targets areas where he is looking to improve.

"I want to try and keep up my momentum for 90 minutes – not only the skills

and creating chances, but also helping with the defensive work of the team," he says.

"Also, creating more space for myself and getting more chances where I can take the full-backs on, and scoring more goals – but I'm working on that in training. I can give much more. Everyday I'm working harder to become a complete player."

Norodien says he enjoys hanging out with the other youngsters that he grew up alongside in the Ajax academy, yet is always well advised by the older and more experienced members of the squad.

"Tashreeq [Morris], Ziyaad [Eksteen] and I grew up together in the academy – we are

always together as we're the young ones!" he laughs. "But I'm always learning from the older guys. Nathan [Paulse] is always talking to me, trying to give me advice ... and there's also [Granwald] Scott and Franklin [Cale] who always talk to me and help me improve."

A regular with the national Under-23 side, Norodien knows Bafana Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba is always on the lookout for talented youngsters, but he is taking one step at a time as he looks to continue the superb start to his career.

"I feel a Bafana call-up could be close – I've had some good performances with the Under-23s and coach Owen da Gama believes in me," he says.

"For now I'm more focused on the U-23s and getting more game-time with them, but if coach Shakes Mashaba calls me up, I'll be ready to do the best I can for my country.

"But I'm not putting pressure on myself to say I have to achieve certain things by a certain age – I'm still young and think I can still achieve that in a year or two, which would be an honour for me." **KO**

Full name: Riyaad Norodien **Born:** 26/3/95 in Kensington, Cape Town **Source:** Norway Parks
PSL debut: Platinum Stars 2 Ajax Cape Town 1 (4/4/15) **First PSL goal:** Ajax CT 2 Moroka Swallows 1 (6/5/15) **Honours:** Under-23 international

Career history:

SEASON	CLUB	MATCHES	GOALS
14/15	Ajax	8 (1 sub)	2
15/16	Ajax	2 (2 sub)	1
TOTALS		10	3

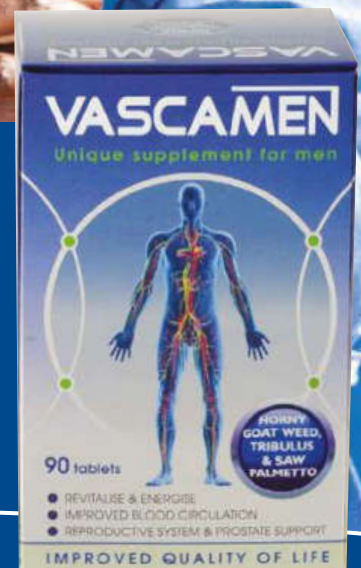
Correct as at 18/9/2015. League and Cup matches only. Friendlies and charity games not included.

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THE MEN IN



Lelese has impressed for Kaizer Chiefs in the early stage of the 2015/16 season

As qualification for both the Africa Cup of Nations and the Fifa World Cup loom, Bafana Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba's selection policies continue to baffle most supporters. Chad Klate puts the spotlight on **six players** who should be on the national team coach's list.

Shakes Mashaba's selection policies remain a paradox. His standard press conference statements seem to focus on selecting 'on-form' players.

"This is what people must understand; when we assemble a team we're looking at things like who's doing what where [location and league], and who's doing better than the other [form]," he said prior to Bafana's 2017 Nations Cup qualifier against Mauritania, which they lost 3-1.

But in reality, 'Bra Shakes' does not always go for the men in form. Against Mauritania, he included several players whose club futures were uncertain for a large part of the off-season, and were lacking match-fitness, such as Mandla Masango and Thulani Serero.

After this magazine went to print, Mashaba announced a squad for upcoming international friendlies against Costa Rica and Honduras, and KICK OFF expects that the name George Lelese, at the very least, would be on the list.

But with 2018 Fifa World Cup qualifiers against Angola looming, as well as Nations Cup qualifiers early in 2016, we present six men who form suggests should be in Mashaba's future squads.

FORM

GEORGE LEBESE

Kaizer Chiefs midfielder George Lebesé has been fast out the blocks this season, having scored six of the team's nine goals in their opening seven fixtures.

At the time of going to print, he was just one goal away from his highest-ever tally of seven goals, scored last season.

A brace in Amakhosi's recent 4-1 League drubbing of SuperSport United suggests Lebesé should be at the top of Mashaba's list.

Chiefs coach Steve Komphela says of his in-form midfielder: "It's nice to see him score. He's got an instinct [for goal] and for any coach who gets goals from a wide player, it's a bonus. You only wish that he doesn't get injured and keeps scoring. He is playing very well, he is a quality player."

Lebesé adds both width and pace in attack, and at 26 years old, is now in the perfect position to cement his place in the national team.

Season guide: 7 games, 6 goals

Minutes played: 335

RAMAHLWE MPHAHLELE

Last season Mamelodi Sundowns defender Ramahlwe Mphahlele featured over 3 690 minutes in a total of 40 League and cup matches, including three matches that featured 30 minutes of extra-time.

The versatile defender played mainly at right-back, but also as a centre-back alongside Alje Schut, the man from whom he has now taken over as club captain.

While Mphahlele's consistency over the past three seasons is reason enough for him to have a shot at the senior national team, he also offers junior international experience from his time with the Under-20 side that featured at the 2009 Fifa U-20 World Cup.

The 25-year-old is yet to make his Bafana Bafana debut despite being called up to Mashaba's squad to face Sudan in a 2015 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in September last year.

He remains positive, recently telling KickOff.com, "I just have to work hard

and hope my chance will come. Of course it will be great to play for Bafana Bafana. Every player has a dream to play for his country and I'm no different."

Season guide: 5 games, 0 goals

Minutes played: 397

KAMOHELO MOKOTJO

Kamo Mokotjo played all of FC Twente's first five Dutch Eredivisie matches this season, building on his 42 appearances in all competitions last season.

The former PEC Zwolle player recently made his 100th appearance in the Dutch top tier, in a 2-2 draw with Ajax Amsterdam, the third South African to reach the 100-game mark in the Netherlands, after Hans Vonk (433) and Glen Salmon (188).

The 24-year-old SuperSport United youth graduate was in South Africa's Under-20 side at the 2009 Fifa Under-20 World Cup hosted in Egypt, but has just three Bafana caps – his most recent, and also his only start, being in the 3-1 friendly win over neighbours Swaziland in March this year.

His midfield partner in that match, Polokwane City's Cole Alexander, was full of praise for Mokotjo: "You can see by his passing and his off-the-ball running that he is in a different class."

With his wealth of European experience adding significant weight to his ball-playing skills, Mokotjo has to be a long-term prospect for Mashaba.

Season guide: 5 games, 0 goals

Minutes played: 450 minutes

DARREN KEET

Keet has returned to his acclaimed status in Belgium following a great start to the new Jupiler Pro League season. When the 26-year-old shotstopper returned to his club after his Afcon let-down, and had to settle for a place on the bench as Belgian national Laurent Henkinet saw out the second half of the season as the first choice goalkeeper.

Keet was initially Mashaba's first ➤

Lebesé is on fire

KAIZER Chiefs midfielder George Lebesé is a man on a mission as he seeks to build on his progress over the past three seasons.

Having carried the tag of "promising youngster" in the early stages of his Chiefs career, it may be fair to say that Lebesé is a late bloomer as he has only recently and – according to his teammate Reneilwe Letsholonyane, partially – lived up to expectations.

KickOff.com recently revealed that the 26-year-old turned down a move to Turkish Second Division club Balıkesirspor in favour of a three-year contract extension at Naturena, which has so far proved to be a good decision.

Lebesé has been instrumental in leading Amakhosi to their 21st Top 8 Final in the club's history, scoring three goals in three matches leading up to the clash with Ajax Cape Town in Port Elizabeth.

'Yeye' has praised his teammate's contribution in the early stages of the current campaign, but says he is yet to reach his best, and adds that Lebesé's particular style of play is what makes him one of the countries most lethal midfielders.

"George is one of the best players in the country and, before the season started, I spoke to him about this season being his time. He's one of the senior players now, and gone are the days where we would say 'he's a youngster and he'll come from the bench' ... now he must take charge," Letsholonyane says.

"Personally I feel he has not yet produced his best, but once he reaches his full potential, you'll see the best George Lebesé ... yes he's scoring and he's doing well, but the George I know, people haven't seen yet.

"What's special about George is that he can be your typical left-winger – stay on the line, take on players, put in crosses – and he can also play inside, and get into the box like he has been recently, which is finishing and scoring the goals."

Based on his good form, many may question why Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba has been reluctant to call Lebesé up, but Chiefs coach Steve Komphela says he understands the tough task that is selecting national team players.

"Even in environments where I had worked before, I had never been one to recommend a player to the national coaches because I have been there; I know how it feels to be there. All we can do is to look at the player's form and, whether the national selectors or the federation or the coach select him or not, there won't be pressure from us [as Kaizer Chiefs]," Komphela says.

"We are just happy that George is performing very well; he's a classy player and it is rare to get any wide player scoring goals; he's also leading the scoring charts with us here, from wide positions. In terms of intelligence, I can't ask for more; technical ability – world class; whether he's selected is a choice that the ones responsible will take."

choice goalkeeper following Senzo Meyiwa's death and Itumeleng Khune's injury towards the end of 2014, and helped Bafana through the final two qualifying matches – a 2-1 win at home to Sudan and a 2-2 draw away to The Super Eagles.

The Kortrijk goalkeeper was harshly booted out of the team following an opening 3-1 loss to Algeria in the 2015 Afcon group stage.

The former Bidvest Wits goalie has this season managed four clean sheets in Kortrijk's opening seven matches, with three of them being in their last three home games, also ensuring three draws and just two losses along the way.

Keet has kept a total of 41 clean sheets in 117 appearances since joining KV Kortrijk from Bidvest Wits at the start of the 2011/12 season.

The former junior international was also a key member of Serame Letsoaka's under-20 side alongside others such as Mphahlele, Mokotjo and Kermit Erasmus, that qualified for the 2009 Fifa Under-20 World Cup and were eliminated by Ghana in the Round of 16.

Season guide: 7 games, 5 goals conceded
Minutes played: 630 minutes

PRINCE NXUMALO

Having scored three goals in three Absa Premiership matches for Ajax Cape Town this season, Prince Nxumalo was unfortunate to miss out on his side's 1-0 MTN 8 second-leg win over Bidvest Wits after suffering an epileptic fit on the eve of the match.

The August Premiership Player of the



Month may take a little while to recover to full fitness, but Ajax coach Roger de Sa is confident that his striker will continue to develop into a national quality player.

"He will never give you goals from like 30 yards or far post headers like Nathan Paulse, but he always keeps close to the box and is always precise with his angle and that's how he delivers," the coach says.

"You know consistency is what I am always looking for ... he has impressed me immensely."

Season guide: 5 games, 3 goals
Minutes played: 288

SIPHIWE TSHABALALA

Siphiwe Tshabalala belongs in the category of ex-internationals these days – but if form is Mashaba's yardstick, then he should be considering a recall for the new Kaizer Chiefs captain.

While many supporters will groan at the appearance of 'Nyawana' on this list, fans should note that he is far and away the most regular provider of assists in the Absa Premiership.

'Shabba' has been instrumental in leading Steve Komphela's side in the early stages of the season, having contributed two goals and four assists in their opening seven matches in all competitions.

This is a continuation of his end-of-season form as Amakhosi completed their record title-winning campaign, when he tallied two goals and four assists in his final five games.

From Mashaba's point of view, Shabba brings not only vast international experience, but also a sense of stability – the Chiefs armband seems to have taken him to a new level of leadership; an influence that would be felt amongst the younger players in the Bafana changeroom.

This sentiment is shared by former Bafana captain Aaron Mokoena, who said recently: "He is the captain of Kaizer Chiefs, is experienced and has been doing very well, scoring important goals.

"Why not? Our team has been lacking as far as experience is concerned and we need him."

Season guide: 7 games, 2 goals, 4 assists
Minutes played: 389 

More headaches for Mashaba ahead of Chan qualifiers



SHAKES Mashaba is set for yet another selection headache as Bafana head into the first round of the 2016 African Nations Championships qualifiers against Angola, who they will also face in the preliminary round of the 2018 Fifa World Cup

qualifiers in November.

Mashaba's headache will be to find consistency in selection – a week before their Chan qualifier, Bafana travel to Central America to face Costa Rica and Honduras in two international friendlies in early October. With Chan being a competition for locally-based players only, Mashaba will be forced to let go of his key internationally-based players that will feature in the two international friendlies.

Another obstacle for the Bafana tactician is that the two home-and-away fixtures against Angola are set for 17-24 October, which means that local clubs are not obligated to release their players for the national team.

The last time Mashaba prepared for a Chan clash, he did so with just 11 personnel following the withdrawals of 12 key players from various PSL teams.

This time, the 65-year-old coach whose place in the

Bafana hot-seat has been questioned following a 3-1 humbling at the hands of minnows Mauritania, will have a similar crisis as the Absa Premiership campaign will be in its seventh and eighth rounds of fixtures.

Mashaba's best option may be to select a mixture of youth and experience from the various PSL teams, perhaps keeping an eye on Owen da Gama's national Under-23s.

There have also been a number of stand-out performers in the National First Division that Bafana may want to tap into, such as Baroka FC midfielder and current top goalscorer Thabiso Kutumela, while Siphelele Ntshangase (Black Leopards) and Marc van Heerden (AmaZulu) are among the more experienced internationals currently featuring in the domestic second-tier.

ARE YOU **X** OR ARE YOU **ACE**?

Bafana Bafana legends David Nyathi and Thabo Mngomeni join the KICK OFF staff in testing the new Adidas range of X and Ace boots.

Mark Herman in his Messi boots



Nyathi holds off Stephen Kihn



Thabo is just Ace!



With scores of different designs of football boots being released into the market every year, in increasingly bright and varied colourways and all boasting that something special – that ‘x-factor’ that will take your game to the next level – how do the various manufacturers stand out amid the clutter?

Adidas came up with something clever and quite unique to promote their new X and Ace range of boots.

They set up a street-ball game between players wearing X boots and players wearing Ace boots. Scoring goals was not the only aim of the game – players could gain points by showing great individual skill, or by stopping a player who

was trying to ‘skill’ them.

They showcased the game on an indoor pitch before the Uefa Champions League Final, with teams of competing street-ball champs doing battle. And for good measure, Zinedine Zidane and his sons Enzo and Luca also took part, destroying the world street-ball champions in a thrilling game.

Adding to the excitement was an electronic scoreboard showing each player’s individual score. Trying to keep one eye on the dazzling footwork and another on the scoreboard left one feeling like one was watching basketball rather than football – breathless stuff.

KICK OFF recreated this scenario – minus the electronic scoreboard (and Zizou!) – with staff and two Bafana Bafana legends as guests – David Nyathi wearing X and Thabo Mngomeni wearing Ace.

For good measure, Mark Herman and Stephen Kihn of KickOff.com had the honour of donning Adidas’ new silver Lionel Messi boots.

Nyathi’s X-men won the first match and T-Boss Aces the second. Both sets of players pronounced their supreme satisfaction with the boots.

DAVID NYATHI ON X

“The ball sits nicely on the foot, which is what you want more than anything in a boot. The cushioning around my foot is very comfortable especially when I control the ball.

“The X is comprehensive and simple. It gives you almost everything you need in it.

“I’m old-fashioned so I’ll have to get used to the bright colour, but credit to Adidas for the technology and innovation in merchandise they’ve created for a new generation.”

THABO MNGOMENI ON ACE

“I don’t know whether it’s the boot or my talent shining through! But seriously, it’s nice playing with a boot that lets you feel the ball. Usually when you wear a boot for the first time it doesn’t feel okay. With these boots I felt I could play in them from the get-go.

“There’s enough padding in the inner-sole so you don’t feel the studs underneath. I like that the gap between the studs on the bridge of the boot isn’t too wide, which is something I’ve struggled with as a man with big feet! The comfort and the feel of the ball is the best thing about the Ace.” **KO**



Catch the video of our legends and staff in action on KickOff.com/multimedia

KICKOFF

George Lebese





PHOTO BY LEE WARREN/GALLO IMAGES





KICKOFF

Teko Modise

HAPPY T

Bidvest Wits' influential midfielder **Sibusiso Vilakazi** was expected to move to either Kaizer Chiefs or Mamelodi Sundowns during the August transfer window. What happened? He also talks about why he decided to stay on at Wits and his arguments with coach Gavin Hunt.

BY LOVEMORE MOYO

KICK OFF: What do you make of Bidvest Wits' start?

SIBUSISO VILAKAZI: It has been a good start. We are in touch with the top, but with the games coming thick and fast we need to maintain our momentum. We are really disappointed that we didn't do too well in the MTN8.

And yourself? So far you have made five starts, two substitute appearances and scored three goals ...

I would have obviously wanted to start all the games, but there is a lot of competition and I also need to step up as well, which is a good challenge for me. The competition is keeping all players psyched up – no-one is relaxing. There is good energy in this team this season.

Do you honestly believe that Wits will be able to help you fulfil your ambitions of winning silverware?

Certain things tend to affect our momentum like the weekend when the MTN8 Final was played, which meant our rhythm was interrupted a bit. You then have to hope that you start well after the break. However, so far so good and I am positive we'll do well.

In your six years in the first team at Wits you have won only the Nedbank Cup, back in 2010 ...

That doesn't change the fact that we always put in the effort

to win silverware, and when we fail we are disappointed. But remember, no matter who it is, every team wants to win every game.

Wits have been spoken of as title contenders this season...

I would say we are aiming to put ourselves in a good position so that when it comes to the tail-end of the title race we are in touch. There have been times when we have been within touch in previous years, but certain games didn't go our way.

There was a lot of talk about you leaving for Mamelodi Sundowns. What happened?

I cannot control what is happening at the office. What I am in control of is what happens on the field. Rumours linking me with a move are out of my control because I am not the one who makes the decision that so-and-so should be interested in me. What I could do was keep my mind focused on what happens on the field. I am employed to play football at Wits and that is what I do. I have always stayed focused on my game. **Kaizer Chiefs were also said to be interested. Were you kept abreast of what was**

happening?

That is for the people at the office and my agent. What was happening on the outside was not really for me to be looking at every day and stressing about.

But as a player you don't want to be told where to go; surely your choice must influence decisions?

I have always had a good relationship with the club so I don't

think it would have come to a point where they would have taken a conclusive decision without me knowing.

We make decisions together. It is an open and trustworthy relationship.

Figures stretching to R15-million were mentioned; do you have any idea how much you are worth?

[Laughing] To be honest I don't know what I am worth! I really wish I knew how people come up with such figures. But I don't look so much at what

is happening outside because I am not in control of that. If someone decides to put this particular price-tag on me I am going to try show on the field that is what I am worth.

I am sure you already had an idea of where you would go if Wits was to sell you ...

Every player has a price and if that point came where an agreement was reached then I would have dealt with the situation then. But nothing happened, so it doesn't

matter how I would have dealt with it. The word 'if' doesn't count anymore.

I am sure all these rumours end up affecting your game – you're human after all ...

I wouldn't say so ... in my situation I was aware of what was happening, but I told myself that I have an agent to handle such matters along with club management and those are the people who will deal with it if ever there were



OSTAY



serious talks about my future.

How did Gavin Hunt deal with you during that time?
Was

there any friction?
Obviously there were certain games where he felt the plan was to bring me in as an impact player. And when I came off the bench I still went in and gave my best. For me, every game I play is an opportunity to keep proving myself no matter what the situation. We were always talking about my situation and yes, we have had some arguments regarding football matters. We are always talking about every situation and even at that time he was able to give me advice and from there we were able to carry on working together.

One thing Gavin made known

was the fact that he did not want to lose you ...

It confirmed just how much I am still wanted here and encouraged me to remain at Wits.

Some of your teammates have admitted that they were getting frustrated with all the rumours. Describe the vibes at training during that time?

I never became a different player or human being ...

Don't you ever feel Wits is now too small a platform for you to express yourself on?

There are certain things that you want to achieve and certain situations that you want to test yourself in and then there is the question of how far you can go in that respect. I do have ambitions and I know how far I want to go. But this is the team that has given me the opportunity and I am grateful to them for granting me that platform. I feel like there is a lot more I still need to give to Bidvest Wits. I want to be part of the process of change at this club. The club has brought in certain players to enhance the direction we are taking as a group.

So you feel Wits is now ambitious enough to help you achieve your goals?

Of course! I mean you can see that for the past two seasons we are a team that is competing with the best and a team that doesn't lose players. We have shown that we are now a team that can retain players and we

Bafana and Afcon

WHAT do you make of Bafana Bafana's chances of qualifying for Afcon, with just one point from a possible six?

We have put ourselves in a difficult situation, but there is still hope. With the right attitude it is possible because there are still 12 points to play for. What matters most at this stage is that we must get a positive result against Cameroon in our next game – that means we have to dig deeper. We have the players to do that. We know the recognition that we all want will come from playing at the Afcon finals.



► **Full name:** Sibusiso Vilakazi

► **Date of birth:** 29/12/89 in Meadowlands, Soweto

► **Previous teams:** Bidvest

Wits juniors and reserves ► **PSL debut:**

Ajax Cape Town 1 Bidvest Wits 1 (13/10/09)

► **First goal:** Platinum Stars 3 Bidvest Wits 1

(7/11/09) ► **International debut:** Morocco

1 South Africa 1 (Friendly, 17/8/13) ► **First**

international goals: Sudan 0 South Africa

2 (two goals, Nations Cup qualifier, 5/9/14)

► **Honours:** 15 international caps (4 goals);

2010 Nedbank Cup winner

Career history:

SEASON	CLUB	GAMES	GLS
09/10	Bidvest Wits	13 (+ 4 subs)	1
10/11	Bidvest Wits	21 (+ 5 subs)	2
11/12	Bidvest Wits	31 (+ 3 subs)	6
12/13	Bidvest Wits	30 (+ 1 sub)	4
13/14	Bidvest Wits	35	13
14/15	Bidvest Wits	30 (+ 1 sub)	5
15/16	Bidvest Wits	5 (+ 2 sub)	3
Totals:		165	34

Correct as at 15/9/15. League and cup matches only. Charity matches and friendlies not included.

want to go in a direction where we are competing with the top clubs. **KO**

THE PRESSURE'S

MOEKETSI SEKOLA

► **Age:** 26 ► **Birthplace:** Botshabelo, Free State ► **Club:** Free State Stars
► **Position:** Striker

The PSL's top scorer with 14 goals last season, Sekola has proved that you don't need to turn out for one of 'big three' to top the charts.

Last season was his second in the top-flight, having joined Stars in 2013/14 from Roses United. He netted just three goals in 18 appearances in his debut season, but took the League by storm in 2014/15 and it came as no surprise that Orlando Pirates, Kaizer Chiefs and Mamelodi Sundowns showed interest during the off-season.

No move materialised, but once he recovers from injury, another goal-laden campaign will no doubt ensure a big-money move for Sekola.

JEREMY BROCKIE

► **Age:** 28 ► **Birthplace:** Christchurch, New Zealand ► **Club:** SuperSport United
► **Position:** Striker

Brockie arrived in South Africa in January as something of a nobody, but quickly made a name for himself as he netted eight League goals in 13 matches.

Reported interest from Sundowns during the transfer window came to nothing, and this season he has picked up where he left off, having scored twice in five games at the time of going to press.

The New Zealander is confident he will not suffer 'second-season blues': "I've

Repeat – Sekola is hoping to replicate his fine goal scoring form of last season



We highlight five players who made a name for themselves last season, and who will need to prove in 2015/16 that they are no 'flash in the pan'.

BY SIBUSISO MDLALOSE

got a couple of goals and there is still plenty more to come. If Gordon Igesund is saying I can get 20, then he needs to make sure he plays me in every game. I think it is within reach. Kermit [Erasmus] got 16 last season and if I can get a full season, and stay consistent, then I can put the chances in the back of the net."

MENZI MASUKU

► **Age:** 22 ► **Birthplace:** KwaMashu, Durban ► **Club:** Orlando Pirates
► **Position:** Attacking midfielder

After impressive performances in the MultiChoice Diski Challenge, Vladimir Vermezovic handed Masuku a first-team debut as a late substitute in a 2-0 Telkom Knockout defeat to SuperSport in November.

His full debut only came in late April, also against Matsatantsa, but this time it was a different result as Masuku scored twice in a 4-1 win. One of those goals also won him the Goal of the Season award.

A regular for the national Under-23s and now getting more game-time for the Buccaneers, all eyes will be on the 22-year-old

ON...

CHARLTON MASHUMBA

► Age: 22 ► Birthplace: Harare, Zimbabwe ► Club: Jomo Cosmos ► Position: Striker

Having finished second to Phumelele Bhengu as the NFD's top scorer last season, much will be expected of Mashumba as Cosmos look for Premiership survival in 2015/16 to rid themselves of the 'yo-yo club' tag.

The Zimbabwean has now managed 27 goals in just 43 starts for Ezenkosi, explaining the reported interest from Chiefs during the off-season.

If Mashumba can manage even half of what he achieved in the NFD season, it will be a case of mission accomplished for Jomo Sono and his team.

PHUMELELE BHENGU

► Age: 25 ► Birthplace: KwaSwayimane, KZN Midlands ► Club: SuperSport United ► Position: Striker

Bhengu will be looking to curb a worrying trend this season – that of National First Division top scorers failing to replicate their form in the top-flight.

The 2012/13 NFD's top scorer, Nkosinathi Mthiyane, didn't live up to the expectations at AmaZulu in his two seasons in the Premiership, while 2013/14's leading marksman David Zulu is yet to show what he can do at Chiefs.

Bhengu, who managed an impressive 24 goals in 32 appearances for Thanda Royal Zulu last season, will hope his new club SuperSport will afford him enough game-time to prove his worth in the Premiership. **KO**

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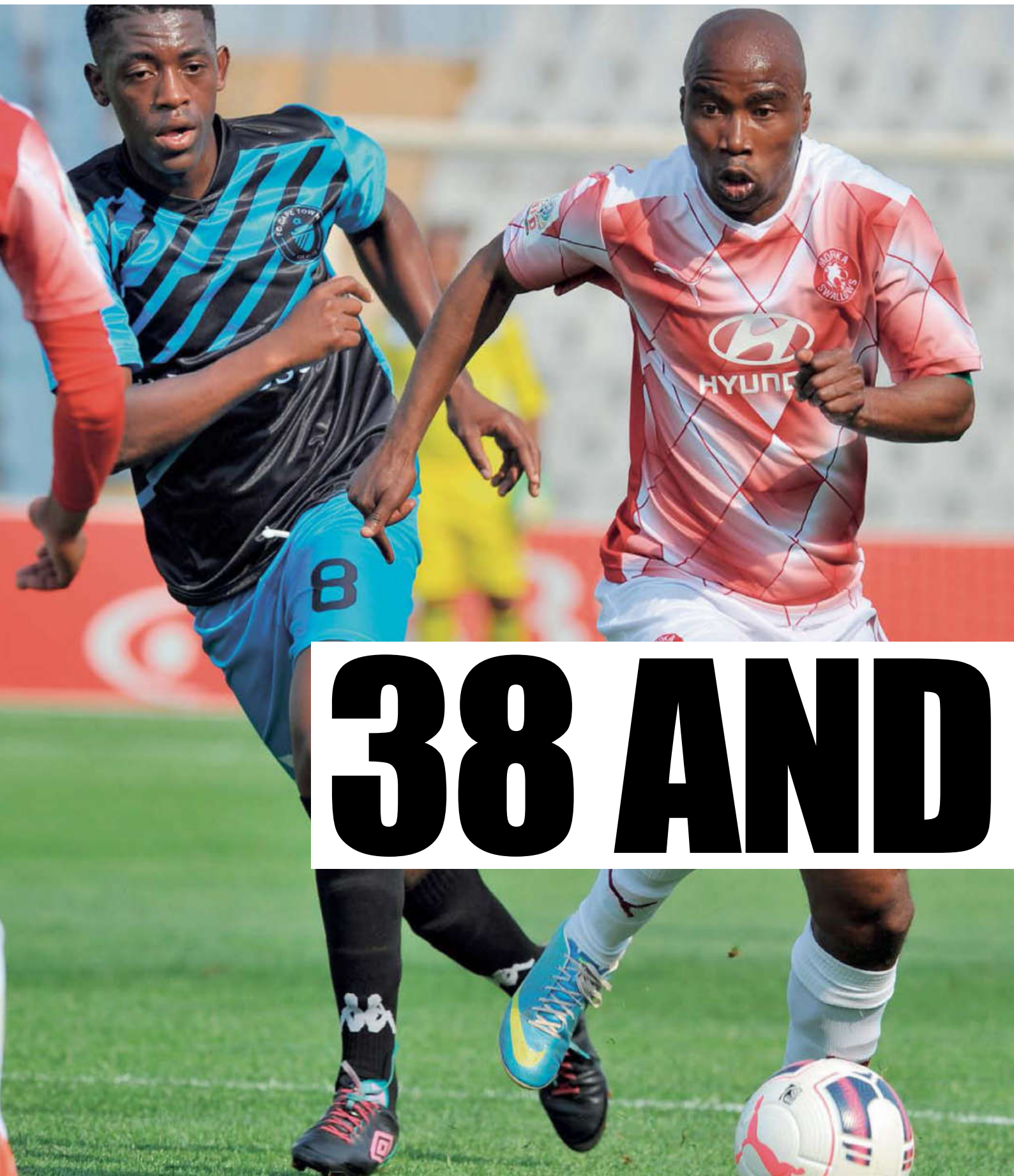
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38 AND



Siyabonga Nomvete scored 16 times in his 82 appearances for the national team

COUNTING

‘IN FOOTBALL THERE IS NO TIME FOR REST ...’

Veteran striker **Siyabonga Nomvete** does not watch local football live – why should he, he asks, when he is still going strong on the field. The all-time PSL top scorer turns 38 this year, and after turning down offers from Premiership clubs, his burning ambition is to help Moroka Swallows out of the NFD at the first attempt.

BY LOVEMORE MOYO

KICKOFF: How are you finding life in the NFD after 18 years of mainly top-flight football?

SIYABONGA NOMVETE: As far as I am concerned there is absolutely no difference from the PSL. I haven't seen

any difference because I am still doing the same hard work as always, just as I have done through all the years when I was playing in the PSL and in Europe. I played in the First Division at the beginning of my career with African

Wanderers when we won promotion to the PSL. I am hoping the same happens again here at Moroka Swallows.

How does the old Coastal First Division that you played in compare to the current NFD?

It is completely different because back then ►



In the Black and Yellow – Nomvete scored a season-best 22 goals in 34 starts for Kaizer Chiefs in 1999/2000

Nomvete turned out for Italian clubs Udinese, Salernitana and Empoli, as well as Swedish outfit Djurgardens. But his most prolific overseas stint came for Danish outfit Aalborg, where he scored 12 goals in 60 appearances between 2006 and 2009



the First Division was tough, rough and all about grinding. All I can remember is these big guys who were hard-running and who could kick the hell out of you.

What motivated you to stay on at Swallows considering that there was reported interest from PSL clubs, especially Jomo Cosmos?

There were offers on the table, but I wanted to be here in Johannesburg with my family, so I chose to stay at Swallows. You have to understand that we sometimes don't get to spend much time with our families during our playing careers. It is important to be part of your kids' upbringing as a father, so I felt I would rather stay on here. I had offers from all over, including one from another Jozi

club, but I decided I would rather stay and help Swallows here in the NFD instead of abandoning my club. With regards to Cosmos, it went no further than just talking – nothing really happened after that ... I didn't even meet them. After that I just made up my mind that I am staying. **Did the fact that you had already been at Swallows for six years play a role in your decision to stay on?**

Staying so long or staying a short time with a club is all the same with me because what matters is that I am playing football and scoring goals. I get joy from playing football.

Do you believe that Swallows can win promotion straight back to the PSL?

In this League it is win or lose. What is

really needed is that you work your socks off and also know what you want in your life. All that is required of you is to work hard, really hard – that is the only way to get back to the top. It is still early days for us, but what I like is that we have been quick to take notice of what is happening and our coach has been clever enough to fix the mistakes quickly. We are on the right track with Ian Gorowa.

Is the squad that has been assembled strong enough to win promotion?

We have a balanced team with plenty of talented youngsters capable of moving onto bigger things. The Under-23 rule has given some youngsters a chance to progress and get into the national team. So we will compete and make our presence felt with the intention of winning promotion.

Will Swallows be your last club?

Why would I want to think about going ➤

“ Many who go into coaching do it because that is probably the only way left for them. ”



Black and White – in his time with Orlando Pirates, 'Bhele' scored four times in 14 matches

anywhere now? Even though I cannot stand on top of a tree and declare that Swallows will be the last team that I will play for, I think I am fine here. The challenge with football is that at times your destiny is not in your hands; some career moves happen in a split second. However, for now I am happy to be playing my football at Swallows and I am not even thinking of moving anywhere else because I don't have a reason to do so.

You are turning 38 this year, so I imagine you must have firm plans already for what you will do when you stop playing ...

I haven't really planned anything solid because it is all up to the Almighty to guide me. I believe I have a gift, and as long as I am still performing and scoring goals then I will not abuse that gift given to me. I don't want to have any regrets when I retire as I have seen with other players who still wish they were playing. I am still an inspiration to the young lads whose careers must still blossom.

Will you ever consider taking up coaching?

Never! Coaching has never really crossed my mind. Some of the guys who go into coaching after their playing days are actually forcing issues; I have seen it happen ... you can see that coaching was not meant for them, but they are doing it because that is probably the only way left for them. I know that I can coach because I have gained reasonable knowledge at all the clubs I have been with – including some top clubs – but my mind is not there.

What has kept you going until such an age?

It is all about respecting my job and being determined to do it with all my heart. I never give half-hearted efforts because I love my job. I never thought I would play until I reached this age. When I was younger, I actually thought that at 32 I will be done, but it seems everything is continuing with no sight of stopping. This is a God-given talent, and I am using it without abusing it so that when I am eventually done, I will know that I played my football and achieved in my career.

Why do most South African players struggle to have careers as long as yours?

The truth is that I train: I never relax or take a break. With training you cannot afford to do that. Even my wife asks me at times why I don't rest, but I always tell her that in football there is no time for resting. Even with games, I have gotten so used to playing midweek and weekends, so

my body must always be fit to play at all times. My legs must always be physically ready for any challenge that comes with my job as a footballer. Staying fit is what has helped me stay in this game this long.

Are you aware that you are the all-time PSL-era top scorer with 119 goals, despite the fact that you spent almost eight years of your career in Europe?

[Smiling] Seriously? I wasn't aware of that. You are now making me feel proud about myself in a different way because I wasn't even aware that this is the case. It gives me joy to know that I am standing at the top of that list.

What do you want from this season if it happens to be the last of your career?

We have to win promotion so that these young boys get an opportunity to play at a higher level. I also want to see these younger players in the team progressing to bigger things in their careers like going to Europe and playing in the national team. Then I will retire knowing that I have done it all.

82 Bafana Bafana caps is what you have in your pocket, yet your international career fizzled away without you making any announcement about whether you were stopping. Why?

I am not one to always talk, but then at the age of 38 it is normal that I should be concentrating on my club. I like the fact that they are building the national team with younger players who will be able to play for the team for many years to come. There is no point in even considering me for the national team. I am very happy with what I achieved with them because I played in four Africa Cup of Nations finals and went to two World Cups. For me it is blessing that I was able to play in those big tournaments, plus I also played in the 2000 Olympic Games ... so I am really happy that I was part of South Africa's best.

You have a lot to be proud of ...

I am not one who believes in talking too much about what I did. I don't even watch local football. The only time I watch local football is when I go through matches that were played a week or two ago. I prefer watching movies.

Why not watch local football live?

It is because I also play the same local football. I see no reason why I should watch local football live when I have a gift in my legs. **KO**



► **Full name:** Siyabonga Eugene Nomvete
 ► **Born:** 2/12/77 in KwaMashu, Durban
 ► **Original clubs:** Manchester City, Double Classic, Sabbata FC, Durban Celtic, Janus Cosmos, Clermont Blizzards (all amateur teams) ► **Debut:** AmaZulu 4 African Wanderers 0 (23/7/97, Rothmans Cup)
 ► **First goal scored:** African Wanderers 3 Kaizer Chiefs 3 (2/8/97) ► **International debut:** Trinidad and Tobago 2 South Africa 0 (as a sub, 6/5/99, Friendly) ► **Full international debut:** Jamaica 1 South Africa 1 (9/5/99, Friendly)
 ► **First international goal:** South Africa 1 Sweden 0 (27/11/99, Friendly) ► **Honours:** 82 Full international caps (16 goals); 25 Under-23 caps (15 goals); 2000 Bob Save Super Bowl winner; 1998 Rothmans Cup winner; 2005 Swedish Championship winner; 1999/00 PSL Player of the Season; 1999/00 Players' Player of the Year; 1999/00, 2000/01 KICK OFF Footballer of the Season

Career history:

SEASON	CLUB	MATCHES	GOALS
96/97	African Wanderers (Div. 1)	not available	
97/98	African Wanderers	29 (+ 4 subs)	11
98/99	Kaizer Chiefs	12 (+ 11 subs)	8
99/00	Kaizer Chiefs	34 (+ 2 subs)	22
00/01	Kaizer Chiefs	36 (+ 4 subs)	18
01/02	Udinese (Italy)	6 (+ 8 subs)	0
02/03	Udinese	did not play (injured)	
03/04	Udinese	1 (+ 6 subs)	0
	Salernitana (loan, Italy, Div. 1)	7 (+ 10 subs)	2
04/05	Empoli (loan, Italy, Div. 1)	(10 subs only)	0
05/06	Djurgardens (Sweden)	1 (+ 4 subs)	1
	Orlando Pirates	14	4
06-09	Aalborg (Denmark)	60	12
09/10	Moroka Swallows	19 (+4 subs)	9
10/11	Moroka Swallows	28	12
11/12	Moroka Swallows	31	19
12/13	Moroka Swallows	22 (+ 1 sub)	6
13/14	Moroka Swallows	33 (+ 1 sub)	6
14/15	Moroka Swallows	24 (+ 8 subs)	8
15/16	Moroka Swallows	2	1
TOTALS		359	139

Correct as at 12/09/2015. League and Cup matches only. Friendlies and charity games not included.

“ It gives me joy to know that I am standing at the top of the goalscorers' list. ”



HE

MAKES

KEEPERS



William Shongwe is better known as a TV pundit, but he can point proudly to a playing career keeping goal for both Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates. What few people know is his role in developing some of the best keepers around.

BY ZOLA DODA

With a list of honours that will make any PSL player jealous, it's hard to imagine that former Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates goalkeeper

William Shongwe achieved all his success without goalkeeper coaching.

Shongwe started his career with Manzini Wanderers in his native Swaziland before joining Chiefs in 1986. His five seasons with Amakhosi saw him winning League titles in 1989 and 1991, the Mainstay Cup in 1987, the BP Top 8 in 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990, the Ohlssons Challenge Cup in 1987 and the JPS Knockout in 1986 and 1987.

After hanging up his gloves in 1995, Shongwe chose to embark on a career as a goalkeeper coach and over the past 20 years he has re-shaped the careers of many top glovemen, including Andre Arendse, Brian Baloyi and Rowen Fernandez. Among those he helped develop as young keepers are Itumeleng Khune, Ronwen Williams, Sherwin Naicker of Jomo Cosmos, Chippa United's Daylan Hawes and South African Under-17 international Mondli Mpoto.

Shongwe can be proud that all of his protégés – Khune, Williams, Naicker and Hawes – kicked off the new season with clean-sheets on the opening weekend. And of course, two of them – Khune and Williams – were in the Bafana Bafana squad for the recent African Nations Cup qualifier in Mauritania.

"I never had the privilege of proper coaching and how I made it that far in my career is a miracle," Shongwe says. "Having played all my career without a coach, I feel like this is a position that deserves so much more attention, yet is still taken for granted. Teams have made an effort, but I still think goalkeeper coaches don't get the





Sherwin Naicker, now at Jomo Cosmos, impressed Shongwe while at SuperSport United

respect they deserve. I'm happy with what my former players have achieved and they wouldn't be where they are if they were not good keepers. But they still have a long way to go because a goalkeeping career is full of twist and turns – you go through many phases as a goalkeeper.”

Between 1997 and 1998, Shongwe worked as the goalkeeper coach of the Swaziland national team before joining Chiefs in 2001, where he worked under Muhsin Ertugral. And it was at Naturena where Shongwe learned the ropes under German Rainer Dinkelacker.

“When I look back in my career, I laugh at things we used to do. When outfield players were running, I also ran with them. When they were doing physical work, we all did that. But when it came to personal goalkeeper training, I was left on my own with other keepers. I went between the posts in match situations and it was only during the shooting drills where I felt I had a training session. The great goalkeepers like Patson Banda and Banks Setlhodi all went through the same thing. When Gary Bailey joined Chiefs, he used to help me a lot because he had been exposed to specialised training. He pointed out a lot of things that I was doing wrong and that helped me improve. After I finished playing, I went to Bra K [Kaizer Motaung] and told him about my plans to become a coach and that is when he made an arrangement to bring in Dinkelacker. First, I was supposed to go to Germany for a three month course under Dinkelacker, but then the club decided to bring him to Chiefs.”

After leaving Chiefs, Shongwe worked with Bafana before joining SuperSport United during the 2007/08 season. He was with the Tshwane outfit until 2012 when he left the club to focus on his work as a TV pundit.

This month, one of Shongwe's former youth players Mpoto will be keeping goals for the national Under-17 side at the World Cup in Chile.

“Players like Khune came through proper structures; all the goalkeepers coming through have a better chance of making it. But breaking into Europe will always remain difficult for them because in Europe goalkeepers are ahead of us because they start at a very young age.”

BRIAN BALOVI (KAIZER CHIEFS)

“When I worked at Chiefs in 2001/02, Brian was already an established goalkeeper – he was already the ‘Spiderman’ that people knew. Working with goalkeepers at that level is very challenging, but my situation was clear; I was there to learn. And the players I worked with me respected me because I didn't come out of nowhere: I was a reputable goalkeeper who played for Chiefs, so the respect was there.”

ROWEN FERNANDEZ (KAIZER CHIEFS)

“Rowen started at Wits and when he moved to Chiefs he was fully developed. My job was to help him focus on basics like catching the ball and his footwork. When it comes to diving, there is little you can do at that age to improve a player. The keeper coach's job then is to make sure that the goalkeeper is sharper. What made my job challenging was training two keepers who were at the same level. Brian was number one and Rowen felt he should be given a chance. And how do you motivate Rowen when you know no matter how hard he trains, he won't really play? But because they were professional, they kept working hard. But I told him that when Gary Bailey was at Chiefs I was second choice. There were times when I felt dejected. The biggest mistake I made was to relax and taking training for granted. Then Gary had a knee injury and I had to play even though I was not ready. I had a nightmare, and this is the example I use to give keepers, not to stop working because a chance will come.”

ITUMELENG KHUNE (KAIZER CHIEFS)

“What you see now has been developing for a long time. Khune is energetic to a point that he will dive for a ball that is going out for a corner. For a keeper it's more about how lively you are, going for every ball. He is still hungry and after last season I'm sure he wants to prove that he still has it. I think people judge Khune unfairly; he has raised the bar so high, to a point that anything from him that is below the standard he has set, is

“I still think goalkeeper coaches don't get the respect they deserve.”

considered bad. Khune keeps Chiefs going week in and week out, and people don't appreciate that. No-one expects anything less and Khune has to re-invent himself continuously."

DENIS ONYANGO (SUPERSPORT UNITED)

"When I worked with him my main focus was with his footwork. He was in his best physical condition, but co-ordination was his biggest problem and I had to focus on that. His strength was dealing with high balls. He knows how to jump and had a better anticipation than most keepers. But coming off the line – that's where I felt he was lacking. I'm impressed with how well he did at Sundowns last season."

ANDRE ARENDSE (SUPERSPORT UNITED)

"What do you coach a man who has won the Nations Cup? Because of his professionalism, I managed to get three good seasons out of him. When I arrived he was about to retire and become a goalkeeper coach, but I pushed him to keep playing so I could keep my job. And because he was professional, it was more about getting him excited because you can't make an old man dive around like a youngster. Sharpness was very important at that stage of his career and in the process SuperSport won League titles with Arendse in goals."

EMILLE BARON (SUPERSPORT UNITED)

"With Baron it was easy because he was out of shape – he was round when he came to us because of all the injury problems he had at Chiefs. That for me was a starting point. Having played overseas and at Chiefs, he was unbelievable. He had great reflexes and once he was fit there was no stopping him. When he came to us he wanted to achieve something – he was given a new lease on life by Gavin Hunt."

RONWEN WILLIAMS (SUPERSPORT UNITED)

"I learnt a lot from all the experienced keepers I worked with – and everything I taught Ronwen was a combination of what I learnt. Ronwen was 13 when I started working with him. He was recruited by Godfrey Mosoetsa and Kwanele Kopo – these guys travel to all the tournaments and identify talent, and don't get the credit they deserve. Ronwen was raw and I started from scratch. I taught him how to stand when anticipating a shot and where

your hands are and everything about the basics. For me, it was about position and posture, and from there you start building a little bit of power in a player. When he was thrown into the deep-end for Bafana against Brazil it didn't work well for him. That exposure didn't help his confidence – it took a hit. But he is still a good keeper, otherwise he wouldn't have made it this far."

SHERWYN NAICKER (SUPERSPORT UNITED)

"Sherwin was at SuperSport at the same time as Ronwen and he was ahead. He was more agile and more polished; he was seen as the next one to come through, but unfortunately due to his physical condition it didn't work that way. But what you see of Sherwin now, I'm not surprised with how far he's come. I saw him during the NFD Play-offs and he was looking good and I told him that. I'm happy Bra J [Jomo Sono] stuck with him."

DUMISANI MSIBI (SUPERSPORT UNITED)

"He was the national Under-20 number one goalkeeper for a while. When I worked with him at SuperSport I could see the talent, but he was very quiet. You had to force him to open his mouth – but I could see he was talented."

MONDLI MPOTO (NATIONAL UNDER-17)

"Technically he was way behind the group of players he joined with, but he has developed into a good keeper and you can see how well he is playing for SuperSport."

MOENEEB JOSEPHS (BAFANA BAFANA)

"I worked with him at Bafana Bafana. He has this energy, like Khune in a way. There is never a dull moment with him, and he is experienced. He has been playing professional football for more than 15 years and still, whenever he enters the field, he goes there with the same level of energy. He is one of those who should have had a chance to go abroad."

CALVIN MARLIN (BAFANA BAFANA)

"I also worked with him at Bafana Bafana. He was a true professional. There was nothing spectacular about him, but he was focused all the time. At times I thought he needed to smile a little bit more. He was too focused, but a hard worker."



Chippa United's Daylan Hawes improved in the USA

DAYLAN HAWES (CHIPPA UNITED)

"He was also at SuperSport – in the first match of this season against Chiefs he was fantastic, and in the second match against Pirates he wasn't bad. He bounced back in the third match. As a youth player one of his biggest weaknesses was his footwork – he had wooden legs. The legs were only there to help him stand and he couldn't do anything else. He went to the USA and the time he spent there helped because of all the training and drills he was exposed to."

BRIGHTON MHLONGO (SUPERSPORT UNITED)

"I worked with him when he came to SuperSport United for trials. I used to watch him when he was playing with FC AK in 2010/11. Gavin Hunt asked me to bring him because he wanted to sign him. But when we asked FC AK to send his clearance we discovered he was a Pirates player. It was a very disappointing situation because Pirates wanted him. And Pirates had Moeneeb and Senzo Meyiwa, but I knew his time would come and I used to remind him all the time." **KO**

RECORD

ESPANYOL 0 - 6 REAL MADRID

7' - RONALDO
17' - RONALDO
20' - RONALDO
28' - BENZEMA
61' - RONALDO
81' - RONALDO

Cristiano Ronaldo continued to rewrite the record books after netting five goals away from home in Real Madrid's 6-0 drubbing of Espanyol in their La Liga fixture early in September. KICK OFF takes a look at just some of the impressive statistics following the star forward's eye-bulging feat.

RONALDO'S GOALS



Ronaldo wreaked havoc for Espanyol goalkeeper Pau Lopez, putting five past the hapless shot-stopper

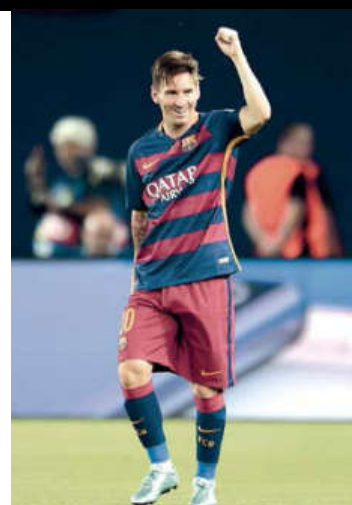


BREAKER

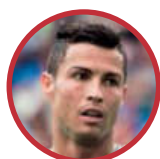
ALL-TIME LA LIGA TOP SCORERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Lionel Messi
(Barcelona)
287 (318 games)</p> <p>2 Telmo Zarra
(Athletic Bilbao)
251 (237 games)</p> <p>3 Hugo Sanchez
(Atletico Madrid, Real Madrid, Rayo Vallecano)
234 (347 games)</p> <p>4 Cristiano Ronaldo
(Real Madrid)
230 (203 games)</p> <p>5 Raul
(Real Madrid)
228 (550 games)</p> | <p>6 Alfredo di Stéfano
(Real Madrid, Espanyol)
227 (329 games)</p> <p>7 César Rodríguez
(Barcelona, Granada, Elche)
223 (353 games)</p> <p>8 Quini
(Sporting Gijon, Barcelona)
219 (448 games)</p> <p>9 Pahiño
(Celta Vigo, Real Madrid, Deportivo, Granada) 210 (278 games)</p> <p>10 Edmundo Suárez
(Valencia)
195 (231 games)</p> |
|--|---|

*Statistics correct as at 18/9/2015



REAL MADRID'S LA LIGA TOP SCORERS



CRISTIANO RONALDO

230

203 GAMES



RAUL

228

550 GAMES



ALFREDO DI STÉFANO

227

329 GAMES



CARLOS SANTILLANA

186

461 GAMES



HUGO SANCHEZ

164

207 GAMES

*Statistics correct as at 18/9/2015

RONALDO'S RECORDS AFTER HITTING FIVE AGAINST ESPANYOL

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ronaldo is now the highest La Liga scorer in Real Madrid's history, and the fourth-highest goalscorer of all time in the Spanish top-flight His five goals against Espanyol surpassed Raul's tally of 228 La Liga goals, and he achieved the feat in 347 fewer matches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CR7 has scored the most hat-tricks in La Liga history (28) Ronaldo has the highest scoring rate in the League's history (1.13 goals per game) Ronaldo became just the third player to score five away goals in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a La Liga fixture, after Merodio in 1959 and Peternac in 1996 In scoring against Espanyol, Ronaldo matched Lionel Messi as one of only two La Liga players to score 100 goals away from home, taking 24 fewer games than Messi to achieve this impressive feat KO |
|---|--|---|

ENGLAND'S

ROONEY EDGES CHARLTON'S GOAL RECORD



Wayne Rooney has now reached 50 goals for England in 107 games, averaging 0.47 goals per game

Wayne Rooney beat Bobby Charlton's England goals record when he scored his 50th international goal in a European qualifier against Switzerland recently.

The 29-year-old Manchester United striker is also just behind Charlton's club record of 249 goals. But is it fair to compare Rooney in the same breath as Charlton?

A lot of Charlton's international goals came in the golden era of English Football (1966-70) as England won the World Cup in 1966, the same year he won the Ballon d'Or. In 1968 Charlton

captained United when they became the first English team to win the European Cup.

He played in four World Cups (Rooney has played in three) and it can be argued that he played in a stronger international team. Charlton also played and scored in a lot more friendly matches: 32 goals in 71 friendlies compared to 14 goals in 41 friendlies for Rooney.

Charlton also didn't have the entire planet following his every move on Facebook or Twitter, and there were no TV shows to analyse his movement, his



Bobby Charlton scored 49 goals in 106 matches for England – an average of 0.46 goals per game

weaknesses and shortcomings.

So is Rooney in the same class or even better given the pressure that modern technology has added to the life of a professional footballer?

We could argue that Charlton would have played on frozen or muddy pitches, while Rooney has strutted his stuff on the world's best football surfaces. Rooney can also analyse his opposition before matches; Charlton could not. And modern balls are also lighter and travel faster – though goalkeepers' gloves are better.

In truth, it is unfair to compare players of different generations: great footballers of the past would have adapted to current conditions and pressures, and similarly the current stars would have been great in the past.

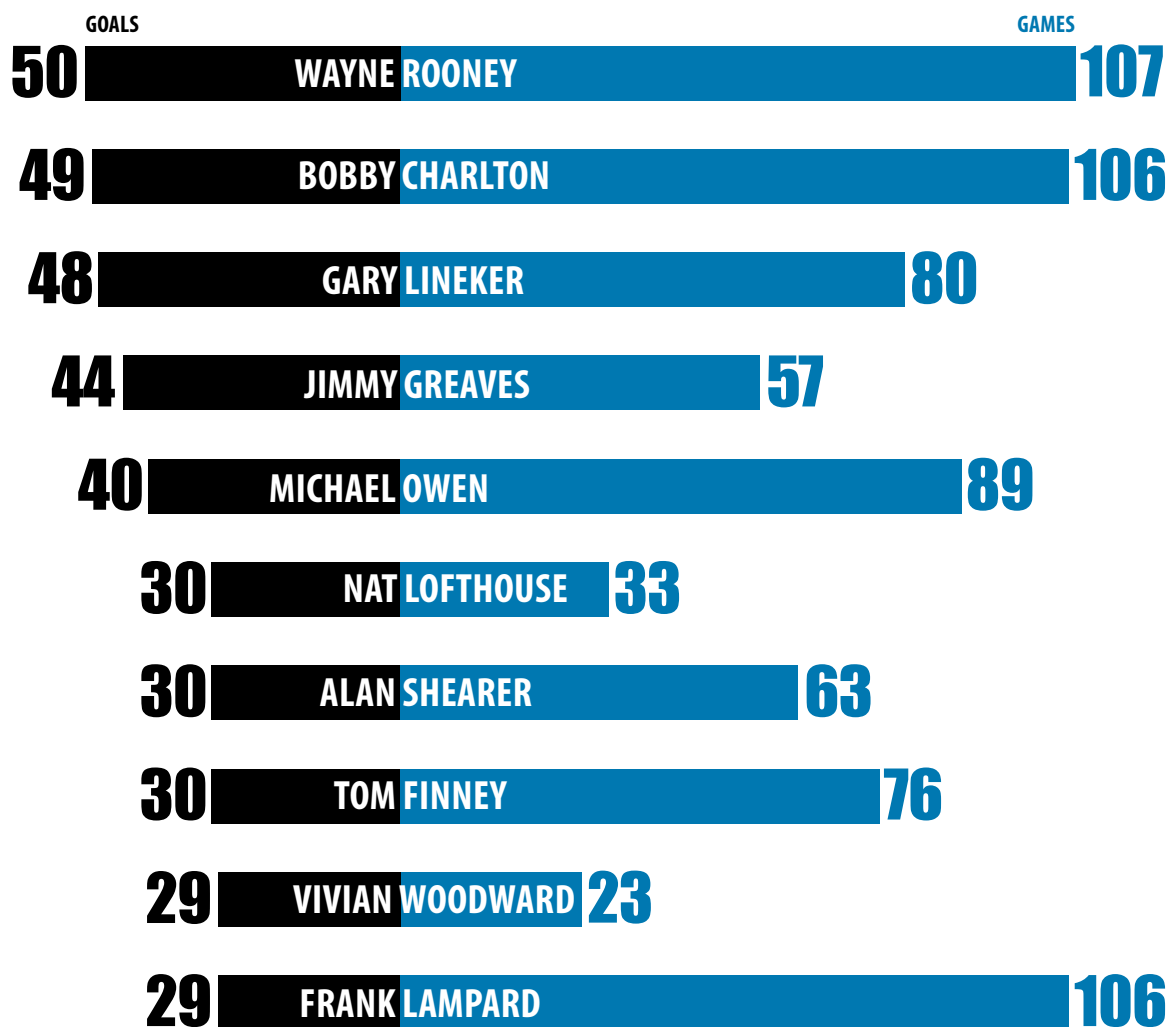
The one thing that is consistent is that both players have been prolific for their country and should be honoured for being the great goalscorers that their statistics prove. **KO**

By George Dearnaley



GOLDEN BOY

ENGLAND'S ALL-TIME TOP SCORERS



HOW DO ROONEY AND CHARLTON COMPARE TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL STRIKERS?

Pele' (Brazil)

77 goals / 92 games (0.84 goals/game)

Miroslav Klose (Germany)

71 goals / 137 games (0.52 goals/game)

Didier Drogba (Ivory Coast)

65 goals / 104 games (0.63 goals/game)

David Villa (Spain)

59 goals / 97 games (0.61 goals/game)

Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Sweden)

57 goals / 107 games (0.53 goals/game)

Samuel Eto'o (Cameroon)

56 goals / 118 games (0.47 goals/game) Cristiano

Ronaldo (Portugal)

55 goals / 119 games (0.46 goals/game)

Thierry Henry (France)

51 goals / 123 games (0.41 goals/game)

Lionel Messi (Argentina)

49 goals / 105 games (0.47 goals/game)

Neymar (Brazil)

46 goals / 67 games (0.69 goals/game)

Luis Suarez (Uruguay)

43 goals / 82 games (0.52 goals/game)

Diego Maradona (Argentina)

34 goals / 91 games (0.37 goals/game)



GROWING OUR SPORT AND LOCAL CONTENT

We spend more than R1 billion every year on local content across Africa. From our hubs in Joburg, Nairobi and Lagos, we bring our vibrant African stories to your screens.

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KICKOFF
SOCCER AT ITS BEST

STYLE GUIDE

SPORTS LUXE

Gingham shirt R700 Trenery
Tog bag R1 500 Superdry
Canvas strap watch R1 000
Timex at Treger Brands
Woven belt R500 Ted Baker at Stuttafords
Regular slim jeans R800 Guess at Spree

PHOTOGRAPHY GLEN MONTGOMERY AT SUPERNOVA STYLIST JANYA NORTJE GROOMER RENEE ROSSOUW

STYLE
GUIDE



JOGGER JEANS

These are the most versatile denim jeans. They are comfortable, suit all body shapes and you can dress it up or down.

Bomber jacket **R860** Topman
Camo golfer **R800**
Lyle & Scott at Stuttafords
Jogger jeans **R800** Cutty
Sneakers **R1 400** Adidas Originals

CREWNECK SWEATSHIRT

A crewneck sweatshirt in a lightweight fabric is perfect for in-between weather. Wear it at the gym or team it with a blazer to make an impression on a casual date.

Unlined blazer **R970** Cutty
Lapel pin **R140** NicHarry
Sweatshirt **R850** Tom Tailor at Edgars
Metal link watch **R2 395**
Police at CJR Gift Sales
Leather belt **R500** Trenery
Regular fit jeans **R900** Kurt Geiger



Sunglasses **R2 260**

Ray – Ban at Luxottica

The Weekender carry all

bag **R3 200** Tsonga

Denim jacket **R3 400** Scotch & Soda

Golfer **R995** Kurt Geiger

Leather strap watch **R895**

Daniel Klein at CJR Gift Sales

Sweatpants **R560** Converse

Hightop sneakers **R500** Jordan at
Jordan Footwear



SWEATPANTS

I know you're thinking you can only wear these to the gym, but as long it is fitted and not baggy, this look can work dressed up as well.

STOCKIST

Adidas Originals **021 421 8272**
CJR Gift Sales **011 257 6000**
Converse **087 940 4664**
Jordan Footwear **021 590 7000**
Cutty **011 608 4721**
Edgars **0860 692 274**
Kingsley Heath **087 5508 880**
Kurt Geiger **0860 434 437**
Le Coq Sportif **011 784 6334**
Luksbrand **011 262 2493**
Luxottica **0861 486 100**
MJ Collection **012 666 8897**
NicHarry **www.nicharry.com**
River Island **021 555 3691**
Scotch & Soda **011 784 3233**
Sportscene **0860 576 676**
Spree **087 740 1010**
Stuttafords **011 784 0496**
Superdry **011 784 0496**
Topman **021 419 5900**
Tregar Brands **021 832 3903**
Trenery **0860 022 002**
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BEST FACE FORWARD

Moisturisers for all skin types that will keep you looking good this summer.



Anti Ageing

With summer coming you need to protect your skin against sun damage. Having a moisturiser that hydrates and has SPF will combat ageing and keep your skin in great condition. Clicks Men's Moisturiser with coenzyme Q10 SPF15 50ml

R36.95

Even Skin Tone

If you have dark spots on your face due to acne or sun damage you may have an uneven complexion. It's important to alleviate dryness and tightness in the skin, so keep skin toned by wearing SPF and moisturising daily. Clere Active for Him Even Skin Tone 50ml

R39.99

Oil Control

Oily skin tends to have more acne breakouts due to the excess oil. Therefore regularly washing your face twice a day and use an oil control moisturiser that will control oil build up and reduce shine. DX Smooth Oil Control 50ml

R64.99

Dry Skin

It is important to use the correct moisturiser when you have dry skin. It needs to hydrate and soothe sensitive skin, therefore choose a moisturiser with vitamin B3. Vaseline Men Moisturiser Hydrate & Soothe

R53.99

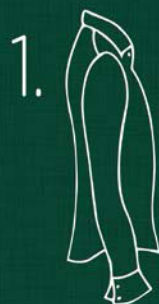
Sensitive Skin

With skin that is sensitive or easily irritated, it is vital that you use a moisturiser that is fragrance and alcohol free. This will help prevent that burning feeling and help soothe the skin and enhance skin condition over time. Nivea Men Sensitive Moisturiser 75ml

R42.99

LIFE HACK #1

HOW TO roll up your sleeves



Step 1:
Start unrolled and unbuttoned



Step 2:
Roll sleeve up two widths of the cuff



Step 3: Roll sleeve up one cuff width more to the bottom edge of the cuff



Step 4: Roll once more, leaving the top of the cuff visible

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This is a summer essential, the white sneaker. It's sleek and you can wear it on a date with your girl or out with the boys.

Peak cap **R600**
New Era at Sportscene
Headphones **R800**
Skullcandy at Luksbrand
T-shirt **R430** Kingsley Heath
Rubber strap watch **R7 500**
Luminox at Treger Brands
Wooden armband **R650**
MJ Collection
Cuffed pants **R700**
River Island
Sneakers **R1 300**
Le Coq Sportif



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Stuff we like

From high-tech gadgetry to the best reads, cool tools and most intriguing shows, KICK OFF brings you all the stuff you need to be in the know.

Up close and personal

R3 999 @ driftinnovation.com

Live outside the box with the Drift Stealth 2 wearable video recorder. It's the most compact, feature-rich and easy-to-use action camera around that produces HD quality recording. Key features of this little gem is its 300-degree rotatable lens, Wi-Fi connectivity for video streaming, a built-in digital LCD screen for easy menu settings and 3-hour battery life. Visit <http://www.kickoff.com/multimedia/videos> to see the Drift Stealth 2 in action... disk-style.



Canon Powershot SX60 HS

For photography enthusiasts looking for an all-round excellent bridge camera with easy-to-use features to capture special moments, the Canon PowerShot SX60 HS is just what you need. **Find out how you can win yourself a Canon Powershot SX60 HS on page 12.**



Sandals for summer fun

R599 @ selected retailers

For over 30 years the Omega brand has been known for its exceptional leather craftsmanship and durability, perfectly balanced in design and function. These tailored Omega GOLD sandals offer a modern twist while still maintaining its heritage. Visit www.omegafootwear.co.za for stockists.



Building an Empire

R279 @ Takealot.com

In one of the most talked about series releases of the year, *Empire* Season 1 tells the drama-filled story of a successful record label owner and his family. After being diagnosed with a life-threatening disease, Lucious Lyon has to choose one of his three sons to take over his empire when he dies.



Cut just right

R449.95 @ Cut-Rite stockists

Summer is on its way in full force, but having a light jacket on hand for the odd chilly evening or rainy day may not be a bad idea. Keep your options open with this 100% cotton twill reversible jacket from Cut-Rite. The jacket comes in stone and taupe colour varieties.

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a scene; to move the
Earth, shape the city.

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STAR LETTER

PLAYERS GETTING EDUCATION



It was heart-warming reading about Daine Klate's two-year deal at Bidvest Wits which entails a bursary to study a part-time law degree at the University. This will definitely empower the mercurial midfielder who will have something to fall back on

once his playing days are over. The majority of our players become destitute once they hang up their boots and are seen at shopping malls begging for money. Some resort to crime to make ends meet. Football is a short-term career riddled with injuries where

no-one's future is guaranteed. By arming themselves with academic qualifications, our budding footballers ensure they will have the means to put bread on the table later on in life.

Nyaniso Funani,
Fort Beaufort



Congratulations!

Nyaniso Funani wins a pair of Adidas LZ TRX Samba boots! Five Predator Zones give explosive power and sublime control, while the Sprintframe gives excellent manoeuvrability and traction. You can also win a pair of Adidas boots by sending your views in a star-quality letter to KICK OFF.

Make your point to the nation

To air your views, send your letters to Kick Off, People's Forum, PO Box 16368, Vlaeberg, 8018 or e-mail them to forum@kickoff.com

The views expressed in the letters published in People's Forum do not reflect the views of KICK OFF magazine, its editor, publisher or Media24. The editor reserves the right to edit and shorten letters. Letters shorter than 200 words will be given preference.

Cut our coaches some slack

I sometimes find it difficult to understand why coaches should be fired due to players' poor performances. Steve Komphela, for example, has never been to a cup final before Chiefs' progression to the MTN8 finals. Does that mean he is a good coach? Not necessarily. He has a strong, dedicated team that is hungry for success. I hope club bosses recognise this and start strengthening their teams adequately instead of firing innocent coaches haphazardly. Our players have relaxed too much. They know coaches become victims of their carelessness more often than not.

Letladi wa Ga-Mphahlele, Maralaleng

Where are the Vision 2022 players?

During Shake Mashaba's time as SA U-20 and U-23 coach, there was a loud noise about the lack of development of players from junior teams to Bafana. Now there is the Vision 2022 plan in place, but I do not see coach Mashaba putting it into motion. By this stage, players like Xulu, Mobarak, Mphahlele, Dolly etc should be key players in the national team. We have great young players in the system; even our U-17s are going to the World Championships. The danger is these players may lose motivation knowing their path to the senior side is delayed. Let's stop talking development and act on it.

Vuyile Bobotyana, Queenstown

Pirates building CAF culture

Watching my team doing well in Caf games brings me so much joy. The team is building a culture of making Caf games part of their season schedule. This challenge will positively shape our attitude and strategic approach going forward. Our management won't just go buy any player, but will think critically about the players' ability to handle the demands of Caf competition. The technical team will be forced to innovate and produce new methods of bringing the best out of players. The players' mental and physical strength will be challenged. And the ultimate result is fans get to enjoy quality football from a solid team.

Tebogo Ramoroka, Botlokwa

TALKING POINT ● On shaky ground

Shakes is taking us nowhere

Here are my reasons why I believe Shakes Mashaba won't help our national team:

- 1) His team selection is not based on merit. Jali has had only one good game for Mashaba – against Nigeria – yet he is always in the starting line-up.
- 2) Mashaba is tactically clueless. He fails to make the right subs at the right time, he can't defend a lead and cannot fight his way back into a game once the team is down.
- 3) I have never heard of captaincy rotation in the history of football.
- 4) His player management skills need work. I'm not surprised by the number of players that don't want to play for him. I foresee a lot more players retiring from international soccer because of this man.

The coach must understand that he is accountable to the public of South Africa. This is not Mashaba FC. Getting emotional, defensive and angry at TV presenters when they ask questions the public need answers to is not on.

Alan Sithole, Tembisa

Mashaba is to blame

Let's face it, Mashaba is to be blamed for the Mauritania result. Yes, we can single out Khune for the mistake he made, but overall he was let down by his back four and Mashaba. How can a well-reasoning madala select players who haven't played a single match for their respective teams to come and start games in the national team? Just because they play in Europe shouldn't grant them automatic selection. Imagine what people would say if players like Mokgothu, Qalinge, Gumede and Ritchie started for Bafana? These players are quality, but are bench-warmers for their respective local clubs. Mashaba once said he selects based on form. What form did Furman, Rantie, Serero and Ngcongca show leading up to the game?

Mphongo, via Kickoff.com



Shakes is going nowhere

Coach Shakes is going nowhere. You win some and lose some, so we must just learn to be supportive. That man knows his job and he's doing it. Shakes is arrogant because he wants to protect his job from interference. Bafana are playing a good brand of football under him with our only downfall being the defensive errors we commit and chances we miss. I believe this can be rectified. Mashaba has achieved 16 victories out of 26 games to date and people still see him as a monster. The sooner we support him, the better.

KamoT, via KickOff.com

Masilela gets my backing

Tsepo Masilela did not honour his call-up to the national team for reasons yet to be disclosed. If the reason was to snub Shakes purposefully, I don't blame him. He's been the best in that position for a long time. His record has spoken loudly season after season, from Israel, La Liga and the PSL. We missed him during Afcon after he was ignored for a mediocre player like Thabo Matlaba. We've all seen Masilela playing a huge role in Chiefs' trophy-laden seasons in recent times. Fans have been wondering what he must do to get selected. I would also be bitter about being ignored in a position I deserve and have given my all

for. The national team coach must wear glasses if he cannot see deserving players, otherwise more will snub him in the future.

Unathi Makalima, Maclear

Mashaba deserves more respect

Why is everyone so focused about Shakes? The media blasted him for leaving out Khune for Afcon and the same Khune let in the easiest of goals ever. Did anyone blast Khune? Does anyone say Khune should be benched the next game or should not be called up ever again? SA's media has divided the nation with their one-sided reporting. Shakes is not perfect, but he is better than any other coach in recent times. The loss belongs to the entire team and not only the coach.

Ditshwane Matlala, via Facebook

People will always complain

It's funny how people are trying to destroy Shakes Mashaba in so many ways. Judging from the stats, Shakes has done well so far compared to Pitso and Gordon, yet people are saying he must be shown the way! I'm very confused about complaints about players not given chances, yet Shakes has called up over 80 players to prove themselves. Let Shakes do his job or else this coach-changing thing won't get us anywhere.

Wandile Wesley, via Facebook

We need direction

We have a broken coach presiding over a broken Bafana. No one knows his tactical approach to the game. If he prefers to use wing-play, why play a central midfielder like Manyisa there? If he prefers a direct approach then Patosi shouldn't be on the bench. Does he know how to use impact players like Vila and Serero? I doubt his players know their roles either, which was confirmed when he once said the role of the captain is to toss the coin.

Muzikayise, via KickOff.com

Taking the power back

I thank Safa for taking the lead regarding development of soccer in our schools. Truly speaking, our children are no longer interested in playing soccer, especially in rural areas, due to a number of reasons. There are situations where there are no facilities or even teachers willing to coach after school hours. The next step would be for Safa to conduct workshops and coaching clinics in order to empower and motivate members of staff at schools. This could be an important step in addressing our development problems.

Noko Moloto, ga Matamanyane

Rakhale the new star

Thabo Rakhale was a benchwarmer before Eric Tickler saw his potential and gave him a chance. Some players take time to adapt to a certain system of play and coaches end up dropping them because of pressure from fans and management. There is a lot of talent just waiting to get game time at every PSL club. It's often the case where you find a player playing for a small team who was once on the books of a bigger team, only to be released at some point. Players like Thabo Qalenge and Hendrik Eksteen need a coach who will be patient

and give them a chance to play. It's only then that Mzansi will witness the talent we have in our League.

Nikita Mashakane

Bring on shibobos and tsamayas

I'd rather watch a game on TV than go to the stadium to witness direct football that produces a few goals. They are good at that in Europe, but not here. It's time to create our own path. We need more Thabo Rakhales, Masibusane Zongos and Mark Mayambelas who still respect the supporters. Let's not fool ourselves by using this term 'showboating' to describe our football. We salute Pirates for allowing self-expression and showing the world what we can do with our own play. We now have something to talk about after games.

Lerato Shokane, Tembisa

Introduce goal-line technology

Watching the PSL closely, I must say South Africa has come a long way considering the country was once banned by world football's governing body from

1961 to 1992. There are a lot of sponsors investing in the League, clubs are paying players well and the League is quite competitive. Despite the obvious gains over a relatively short period, I'm a bit disturbed. We seem to be lagging behind in other aspects of the game. While most top leagues have embraced goal-line technology, we have yet to witness it in Mzansi. It is long overdue and can only lead to benefits where fair decisions are made through the elimination of doubts and controversy. This is exactly what everybody wants to see. The benefits of introducing the technology with a long-term outlook far outweigh the initial costs involved.

Siboniso "Sdira" Zwane, Swaziland

Kasi flavour all the way

Just like the global economic system which was written by the West to suit Western countries ignoring the rest of the world (particularly African countries), the same applies to Fifa's rules which stipulate that showboating is a bookable offence. The clause doesn't take into consideration the varying football cultures outside of Europe. Players such as Zongo, Rakhale and

KICK OFF KAPPA KIT-OUT

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KICK OFF and Italian sports apparel manufacturers KAPPA team up to bring readers the chance to win playing kit for themselves and their teammates.

Kappa4team
The best for your team

Fast XI FC from Bergville KwaZulu-Natal will be donning a brand new kit from Kappa thanks to coach Thulani "Khabzela" Maseko's motivation.

THESE WERE THEIR ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS:

1. My team deserves to be kitted out by Kappa because ...

The team is popularly nicknamed Centrelona, derived from the Spanish giants Barcelona, since we pride ourselves on patient possession football. If our team is kitted out by Kappa, we will be dressing the part to complement our stylish way of playing.

2. What I like most about KICK OFF for 2015/16 is ...

You guys go deeper into the game than we imagine, including interviews with current and former players, the truth behind stories (not speculations), stats, letters and my favourite 'The Secret Footballer'.

3. Something I don't like about KICK OFF is ... The magazine only comes out once a month. Sometimes I go to the nearest shop hoping to get my latest issue only to find the old one. Please guys, consider publishing fortnightly again.

HOW KAPPA4TEAM WORKS

Gone are the days of having to order a standard soccer kit of 14 jerseys with stock sizes and no flexibility ... The Kappa4Team website allows you to choose exactly which type of kit you want, for exactly the right

number of players and in any sizes you need. All you have to do is visit www.kappa4team.co.za, view the available catalogue of choices and visit your nearest Kappa4Team stockist to get your hands on a brand new, world-class kit – exactly like the pros!



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or post a letter to PO Box 16368, Vlaeberg, 8018 with your answers to the three questions above and a quality picture.

Myeni acquired those skills from the dusty streets of their townships and got them to the professional ranks. Their dazzling footwork is a way of confusing opponents and unlocking rigid defensive structures. This clause discriminates against South African players who do not believe in straight forward, boring football introduced by foreign coaches. It's Mzansi magic, Kasi flavour, our very own South African style of play, not showboating!

Sipho Buthelezi, Vosloorus

LOOKALIKES



Patrick Vieira



Sifiso Vilakazi

One wonders whether Senegalese-born former Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira knows he has twin brother down south in striker Sifiso Vilakazi.

Send us your look-alikes and WIN!

Setshaba Motshwane from Etwatwa wins himself a DX Smooth men's skincare hamper worth R350 for sending us his lookalikes. Put your matchmaking skills to the test and you too can be a winner!



Send us your lookalikes (one of whom must be a soccer personality) along with your name and address to competitions@kickoff.com. Use 'DX Smooth Lookalikes' in the subject line.

BEAT THE PLAYER

1. Former Barcelona attacker Pedro scored how many goals for Chelsea on his EPL debut?
2. Kaizer Chiefs signed which striker from Chippa United this season?
3. Juventus suffered a home defeat on the opening day of the Serie A for the first time in their history this season. Which team defeated them?

4. How many own-goals were scored during the recent Kaizer Chiefs vs Free State Stars game?
5. Former Bloemfontein Celtic coach Ernst Middendorp is currently coaching which team?
6. Who wears jersey number 7 at Real Madrid?
7. Stuart Baxter was fired by Turkish club Genclerbirligi after how

- many League games?
8. Which award did Lionel Messi win recently for the second time during the 2015/16 Champions League draw?
9. Former Mamelodi Sundowns striker Katlego Mphela has joined which NFD team?
10. Who are the shirt sponsors of Ajax Cape Town?



BRILLIANT MASANGO
AGE: 26
FROM: Siyabuswa
TEAM: Kaizer Chiefs



THULASIZWE MATHONSI
AGE: 27
FROM: Alexandra
TEAM: Kaizer Chiefs



MARC VAN HEERDEN
AGE: 27
POSITION: Defender
TEAM: AmaZulu

1. 1 (correct)
2. Edward Manqele (correct)
3. Roma (incorrect)
4. Two (correct)
5. Free State Stars (correct)
6. Not sure (incorrect)
7. Two (correct)
8. Uefa Player of the Year (correct)
9. Royal Eagles (correct)
10. Huawei (correct)

1. 1 (correct)
2. Edward Manqele (correct)
3. Cesena (incorrect)
4. Two (correct)
5. Free State Stars (correct)
6. Cristiano Ronaldo (correct)
7. Three (incorrect)
8. Uefa Player of the Year (correct)
9. Royal Eagles (correct)
10. Huawei (correct)

1. 1 (correct)
2. David Zulu (incorrect)
3. Sampdoria (incorrect - Udinese)
4. Two (correct)
5. Not sure (incorrect)
6. Cristiano Ronaldo (correct)
7. Five (incorrect)
8. Uefa Player of the Year (correct)
9. Royal Eagles (correct)
10. Huawei (correct)

TOTAL: 8/10

TOTAL: 8/10

TOTAL: 6/10

Two readers take on a PSL star in a quiz. You can also take part by sending a hi-res photo with your full name, age, phone number and location to forum@kickoff.com, with the subject line 'Beat the Player'.

Martial's Manchester United contract



Manchester United signed Anthony Martial from Monaco in a £36-million deal which made the 19-year-old striker the most expensive teenager in history. Here's a copy of Martial's new contract leaked to the media.



You'll Never Walk Alone

A Liverpool-supporting Norwegian couple named their daughter You'll Never Walk Alone after complications during her birth almost proved fatal. They decided to name her by the famous acronym as a symbol of strength and hope.



West Ham fan inks historic win

The things fans do sometimes. Jon High, a West Ham fan, decided to tell those who care what he'd do to celebrate his club's win over Liverpool on his Twitter account the day before: "52 long years since the famous Irons won at Anfield. If we do it tomorrow I shall get a tattoo to commemorate the famous occasion!" And true to his word, he posted his new tattoo online after West Ham won 3-0. "Done! Come on you Irons!"



Busquets on football and sex!

Barcelona midfielder Sergio Busquets detailed why he prefers football over sex on a Spanish TV show recently: "In football, happiness lasts three or four days. Sex, on the other hand, can last just one minute."



Bad Kompany

Moral of the story: Don't sleep while travelling with your teammates! Chelsea's Eden Hazard photo bombed a sleeping Vincent Kompany while on international duty with Belgium.



Ibra on Ronaldo and Messi

Lionel Messi was named Uefa Player of the Year for the second time during the Champions League draw held in Monaco in August.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic: "Cristiano Ronaldo is the guy who always gets front row tickets to see Lionel Messi win his awards."

LAUGH WITH PROFF

CONTACT PROFF To get in touch with Proff, check out his blog – diskioff.blogspot.com – or catch him on www.kickoff.com/forum.



Bra J breaks Us-ain Bolt's record!

Jomo Sono was spotted dashing to the PSL's offices during transfer deadline day at record-breaking speeds, according to eyewitnesses. Jomo probably last ran that fast during the 1980 Mainstay Cup Final!

Surprise, surprise!

Mbulelo 'OJ' Mabizela is chillaxing with his girlfriend ...

OJ: Do you want to see a magic trick?

Girlfriend: Sure!

OJ: Boom! You're single, it's over.

Girlfriend: Wanna hear mine?

OJ: Sure ...

Girlfriend: Boom! I'm pregnant.

OJ: I've got a better one.

Girlfriend: Tell me.

OJ: You're on your own.

Girlfriend: I've got a good one.

OJ: Talk then ...

Girlfriend: You're not the father; it's your brother's baby.

OJ: Hahaha!

Girlfriend: What?

OJ: I don't have a brother. That guy is my gardener!

Girlfriend: [girlfriend faints]

FIFA 15



FIFA 15 difficulty levels

FIFA 15 difficulty levels: Legendary, World Class, Professional, Semi-Pro, Amateur, Bafana Bafana.

Jimmy Tau and his side chick ...

While watching TV with his girlfriend, Jimmy Tau received an unexpected call from his side chick.

Side Chick: Hi baby.

Jimmy Tau: Sho chief, zikhiphani (how're you)?

Side Chick: Just calling to say I love you.

Jimmy Tau: Sho commander. Uyazi nawe, sisonke (you know we're together).

Side Chick: Good night baby.

Jimmy Tau: Viva!

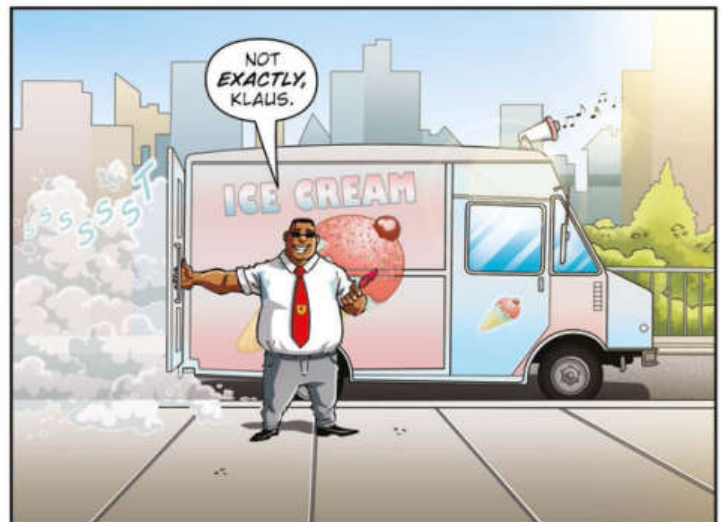
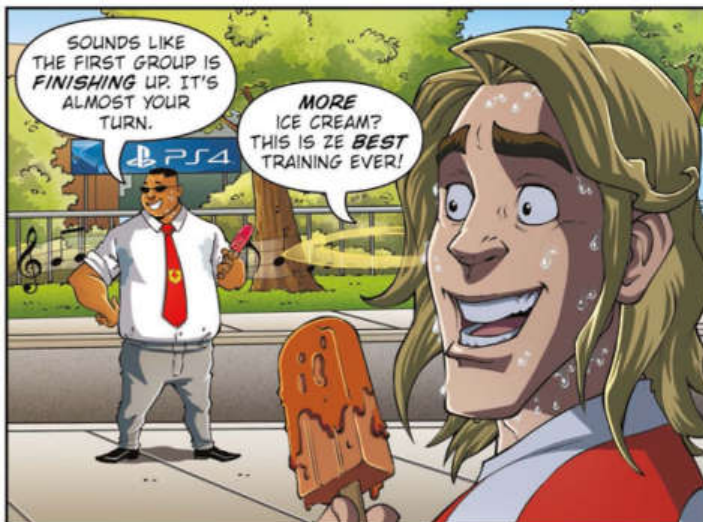


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That's when you've got to make the most of the opportunity! It's a short career (they keep reminding us!) so you've got to capitalise when things are going well for you. Your friends are all punting you, everyone wants to be around you and new friends are everywhere.

It's time to pick up the phone and get your agent on the line. "I'm in all the media, I'm getting great publicity – where are my sponsors? What are you doing for me?" Sometimes it's even right to push your club a little further too, and your agent must make it happen. "Can you get me another club, a bigger one, a bigger salary? I want a car too and a big signing-on fee; I'm tired of earning peanuts playing for these guys." Your head swells with the interest and you start thinking of bigger and better options.

There is no loyalty in football. And it goes both



“There is no loyalty in football. And it goes both ways. Play badly for too long and your club kicks you out...”

ways. Play badly for too long and your club kicks you out the door. Play well for long enough and you want a better deal. If they want loyalty they should sign a dog. Remember that older player who was loyal to the club? He turned down big offers to stay with his home team – then he got injured and they got rid of him. That's what loyalty does to you. It makes you soft. Never let sentiment affect your decisions. This is a professional business and the clubs are looking after themselves too.

It's not just about getting a bigger team or a better offer, it's also about moving up the ladder in all areas of the game. Why stick with the same small agent when the big agencies are all chasing you too? Agent 1 calls and

says he can get you an overseas deal in one year if you sign with him. When Agent 2 calls you, you tell him you've got an overseas deal happening in 12 months, but if he can get you one quicker then you will sign with him. Your own agent, that you've been with for four years, is working hard behind the scenes trying to match all these offers and when he asks you, you tell him you are not talking to anyone else. You're sure he doesn't tell you everything, so why do you have to tell him everything? It's the way it is in professional football. There is no trust. It's all about getting what you want when you can.

Some players will remind you that they have achieved success by staying loyal to their agent their whole

careers, and that without your first agent you wouldn't have got your first professional deal. But it all depends who you listen to. Some players will deal directly with clubs and try to cut their agents out of the deal.

Some clubs will play players off against their agents – tell them they will give them a bigger signing-on fee and bigger incentives ... anything to keep the agent out of the deal. Some agents play the clubs off against each other, telling club A that club B has made a better offer, even if it is a lie, just to get club A to improve their offer. Then, when that happens, they go back to club B and try and get them to improve their offer. There is little to no thought about what club is actually right for the player, or what coach will help the player develop – it's all about the better deal right now!

Friendships come and go, and in a football career you don't have to be friends with the players in your team or the people who do your contracts. You don't have to support the club you play for. You don't have to do anything extra for the fans if you don't want to. You get paid to train and to play and that is what you do. Nothing less, nothing more.

It's a short career and we have to make the most of it. **KO**

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Real cider refreshment can feel like a thousand frozen high fives. To better understand just how refreshing real cider can be, we decided to ask consumers what it feels like with the promise that it could make them famous.

Calling out to consumers with radio ads on national stations, we received thousands of submissions from Hunter's fans through our website, Facebook and Twitter. We took these words and brought them to life in collaboration with 5 of South Africa's top designers and artists. Finally we asked consumers to vote for their favourite collab designs on social media.

The top voted designs were turned into 3 editions of the Summer Collab cans which will be released over September to November 2015 with the overall winning design being released first. Congrats to Ashveer Arjeeth for his winning words as designed by Studio Muti in collaboration with Hunter's. Nothing can be more famous than your name and words brought to life on thousands of Hunter's Summer Collab cans.

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ASHVEER ARJEETH



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